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MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1956

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COMMENT OF THE DAY

For Everyone

THE happy fact about Christmas in Hongkong's cosmopolitan community is that it is not by any means the preserve of the designated few. It is admittedly one of the two chief festivals in the Church calendar. But to thousands of others it is a cheerful holiday season with many Western traditions and customs mixed in. The giving of presents, the sending of cards, turkey and plum pudding dinners, even the singing of carols have a far wider appeal. Christmas is really everyone's holiday.

Happily, too, it is a time of out-going tenderness and concern for those less fortunate than ourselves. That too is traditional dating probably from the conversion of Scrooge. Strangers and lonely friends are invited to partake in family festivities. Many poor children learn for the first time the happy anguish of indignation. Charities benefit hugely—or slightly—but Christmas is everyone's season.

THE close of 1956 finds the world badly in need of peace and goodwill. Events in Hungary come to mind, but in Hongkong one does not have to go far to find human ruin. Squatters, beggars, street sleepers, cripples, destitute children, refugees, lepers, fire victims—these are thousands of reasons why good Christmas men should not rejoice, not even in counting their own blessings, unless it is done creatively to produce a communally Happy Christmas. Christmas is also everyone's opportunity.

The large number of parties for poor children shows there is no lack of good intentions. It would be childish and cynically dishonest to add that these collective demonstrations of goodwill emerge only once a year, because Hongkong has a good record for charity by any standards. But much more can be done and Christmas provides the cue. Christmas can be everyone's business.

To Christians, tomorrow is the birth of Christ. The operative and adaptable word is "birth". At this time of year, the spirit of the season softens the hardest heart; a mood or feeling of well-being in giving is born that is worth seizing, preserving, cultivating and applying. Hongkong offers infinite possibilities for creative goodwill of the perennial variety—which is really no more than the Christmas spirit all the year round.

No China Mail For Two Days

There will be no publication of the China Mail tomorrow (Christmas Day) or on Wednesday (Boxing Day).

The China Mail will reappear on Thursday and will be on the streets by noon.

The South China Morning Post will appear as usual tomorrow, but will then cease publication until Friday.

Commandos Blow Up Clinic

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 23.

Arab fedayeen commandos blew up a village clinic at Yokneam, 20 miles southeast of Haifa, before dawn today, an Israeli military spokesman announced tonight.

The clinic was blown up by a bomb the spokesman said. There were no casualties, but footprints were found leading toward the Jordanian border.

Further attacks by infiltrators from Jordan were reported later in the day.

A water reservoir in Northern Israel was blown up, causing slight damage. Again police found tracks leading to the Jordanian border.

TWO SHOT DEAD
Two infiltrators from Gaza were reported shot dead on Saturday when they attempted to flee from a storehouse at a settlement near the Gaza strip. They were shot by a visiting Member of Parliament, and papers found on them identified them as Arabs from Gaza.

A military unit at Acre today captured a man caught trying to slip across the border in a car.

The Court found the man, a 19-year-old, guilty of offering his services to the Israeli Army while secretly in the pay of another country—United Press.

COLD MORNING
Hongkong experienced this morning one of the coldest days of the season.
The Royal Observatory reported that a minimum temperature of 49.3 degrees F. was reached. It grew warmer gradually and at 10 a.m., the temperature was 52.0.

Karachi, Dec. 21.
Communist Chinese Premier Chou En-lai will move toward the release of 10 American airmen in a further bid to improve Sino-American relations and with an eye to getting American support of Communist China's bid for a seat in the United Nations, reliable sources said today.—United Press.

Coal Shortage Shuts Down Factories PEASANTS FORCED TO LIVE ON LIVESTOCK

Budapest, Dec. 23.

Scores of thousands of Hungarian workers were thrown idle today when many major industrial plants all over the country stopped production because they were short of coal, usually reliable sources here said.

Only a skeleton staff of maintenance men and stock-takers remained on duty.

Unemployed workers will receive only half pay during the stoppage which is expected to last until January 2, the source said.

Only 4,000 workers were on duty at the giant Csepel iron and steel combine on the outskirts of Budapest which comprises 18 individual plants employing about 31,000.

Up to the shutdown which began on government orders about two-thirds of the total work force had returned to duty following the end of the six-week, nationwide general strike crippling industry since the Hungarian uprising of October 23.

A Hungarian minister of state, Mr. Georgey Haraszti, was quoted by a provincial newspaper Dunanapló Naplo last week as saying that unless coal production increased, 70 per cent of the country's industry would come to a standstill and between 600,000 and 700,000 workers would be out of work.

Although today was Sunday it was regarded as a normal day in the country's critical fuel shortage. Negotiations were going on for more coal from other East European Communist countries and the West.

These reports said shortage of manpower and damage to pits during the strike were the major obstacles to greater coal output.

Hungarian press reports said today that 700,000 tons of coal were expected from the Soviet Union by the end of March to ease the country's critical fuel shortage. Negotiations were going on for more coal from other East European Communist countries and the West.

These reports said shortage of manpower and damage to pits during the strike were the major obstacles to greater coal output.

Hungary's normal daily coal needs are officially estimated at about 75,000 tons. More than half the country's former 85,000 miners have left the pits and between 20,000 and 25,000 recruits are urgently needed, according to the reports.

Kadar Organises New Army
Vienna, Dec. 24.
Refugees who crossed into Austria last night from Hungary reported today that the workers' councils no longer exist in Hungary.

All of the members of the councils have been arrested and either shot or deported without trial, it was said. The refugees also reported that the government of Premier János Kádár has organized a new Hungarian army, composed of the worst elements of the old security police and former Communist Party and trade union leaders.

All of the refugees maintained that the Soviet forces were deporting an increasingly large number of workers handed over to them by the Hungarian authorities.

A call was made for a 10-day general strike, but it was now impossible for the workers to carry out such a spectacular move as they were all at the end of their resources. Workers were only paid if they showed up for work, the refugees said.

Economic conditions were said to be bad throughout the country. Not only were the workers having difficulties, but the peasants were being forced to kill livestock because of the lack of food. The meat had to be consumed on the spot because of the lack of means of transport, the refugees reported.

The refugees also expressed doubt that the Soviet Union was sending food to Hungary. They maintained that a large part of the food sent by Western countries had fallen into the hands of the Hungarian and Soviet authorities. It was announced in Vienna today that the total number of Hungarians who have sought refuge in Austria since the October insurance pact has reached 148,922. Of this number, 74,831 have already been sent to other countries.

Government's Food Warning
A Hungarian Government statement said today that, if the supply of food in Hungary now was satisfactory, "it cannot be promised that it will be always so."

The statement indicated that there were transport difficulties. The abundance of meat and fowl in Budapest markets was explained by the necessity of peasants to kill their livestock because of the lack of food.

The statement also said that the Soviet Union has supplied Hungary with 5,000 wagons of wheat and will supply 25,000 by the end of May.

It was "ridiculous" that the "erroneous theories of the preceding regime" should cause Budapest to be "the sole capital of central Europe deprived of such tropical produce as tea, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, oranges, lemons etc," the statement said, promising that measures would be taken to secure supplies of these goods.

The statement also indicated that cigarettes would be imported from Yugoslavia, because "Hungarians do not like the cigarettes of the Bulgarian cigarettes recently imported."

SWISS UNCOVER COMMUNIST SPY RING

Berne, Dec. 23.

Swiss Federal Police announced today they have uncovered a second Communist Hungarian espionage ring operating in Switzerland and have arrested three of its members.

"Existence of this second ring," Dr. A. Amstein of the Federal Prosecutors Office said, "was discovered by Federal Police during the investigation of the ring organized by former Hungarian Legation Secretary Matel Vegh."

Operations of the ring were directed against Switzerland and Italy, police charged last week. They said it recruited its members by blackmail and attempted to collect military, political and economic information.

Two women agents of this ring were arrested, one of them, a Hungarian-born Swiss, will face trial in Neuchâtel, while the other, an Italian national, who acted as a courier, has been expelled from Switzerland.

"The second ring," Amstein said, "had been organized by Mr. Vegh's predecessor Hungarian Legation attaché Emerik Peha."

He identified two of the three men who have been arrested, as "Dr. Viktor Schöffel, a trade union employee, and Hans Zogg, distribution manager for the publications of the Swiss Labour Party (Communists)."

A Go-between
"Both were arrested in Zurich last week," he said, "and have since been released from custody after documents found in their possession were confiscated."

"Hans Zogg," he said, "had acted as go-between between Peha and Schöffel and had also been requested by a functionary of the Russian Legation to procure pictures of new uniforms for Swiss police."

Amstein declined to identify the third man "as we are still investigating his case for links to other members of the ring." Formal charges against Schöffel, he said, "will be filed as soon as investigations are completed."

An Old Affair
The reference by Amstein to "Soviet Legation" indicates it is an old affair. The Soviet Legation in Berne was elevated to the rank of an Embassy early this year.

Schöffel, an employee of the Secretariat of the Association of Public Employees, was accused of pro-Communist leanings in a lengthy article published recently in the leading Swiss daily "Neue Zürcher Zeitung."

This is the fourth major Communist espionage ring uncovered in Switzerland during the past years. In 1954, three members of the Czechoslovak Legation were declared "persons non grata" for attempting to collect military information, while earlier, a Rumanian trade delegate was charged with economic espionage.

Disagreement of the official status of this man resulted in Rumania withdrawing its Minister to Switzerland and leaving a Charge d'Affaires in charge of the Rumanian Legation in Berne.—United Press.

**Landslide
Buries Cars**
Ipoh, Dec. 23.
Two cars were buried under a landslide today when a heavy rainstorm hit the town.

The injured were Mrs. J. Smith, a teacher, from the Royal Air Force school at Butterworth, near Penang, who has been admitted to hospital, and Mr. R. J. Jones, an architect from Kuala Lumpur.

A Singapore couple, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gnanapavan, escaped injury though their car was completely buried. A third car had its windshield smashed by stones that had been thrown by the landslide.

Lights On Again
Cebu, Dec. 23.
Barricades were blown away with light for the first time for six weeks today following the withdrawal of 100 Filipino troops from Fort San Carlos.

6 Convicts Escape: Kidnap Patrolman

Dover, Tennessee, Dec. 23.

Six young, gaolbreakers kidnapped and wounded a Tennessee Highway Patrolman today after robbing a cafe, but were rounded up several hours later by a posse of some 100 officers.

The convicts escaped from a gaol in Georgetown, Texas, on Friday, after beating a guard, Clarence, Wade. They drove away in a stolen car.

They were identified as Kenneth Ward, 19, James Long, 20, Karl Laugenschlager, 20, Robert Ricker, 24, Fred Cole, 28, and Bobby Dean Moore, 22. Most of them were being held on burglary charges.

Sheriff Charles Crocker said the convicts invaded a roadside cafe. They were stopped by State Trooper James Bilibrey, 32, the only patrol officer on duty here, a short while later on the road but one of the convicts pulled out a gun and forced Bilibrey back into his car.

SHOT IN HAND

Two of them, piled into the patrol car with Bilibrey, one in the back seat with the trooper and the other in the driver's seat. The other four convicts followed in the stolen car. Patrol Sgt. John Hancock said Bilibrey started to grapple with the convict in the back seat and was shot by the driver through the head. But on attempt to get another shot at the trooper, the driver ran the patrol car into the county courthouse.

The convicts then split up into groups of two and fled, leaving Bilibrey in the car.

Two of them stole another car but were spotted by one of two Army helicopters pressed into the hunt and captured at a roadblock. Two others were found hiding in a cave on the banks of the Cumberland River while the third pair was picked up on foot not far from the town.—United Press.

Elevated To Bench
Singapore, Dec. 24.
Mr. Murray Buttrose, Australian-born Solicitor-General in Singapore, was today appointed one of the Colony's Puisne Judges.

An official announcement said Queen Elizabeth had approved his appointment to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement earlier this year of Mr. Justice Taylor, an Englishman.—Reuter.

Terrorist Incident
Algiers, Dec. 23.
Four Europeans and a Moslem were injured tonight when a terrorist grenade exploded in an Algiers bar. The terrorist who threw the grenade was pursued by a security force patrol and seriously wounded. A police prisoner he was rushed to hospital.—France-Press.

GREETINGS

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All Quiet In Sumatra

PROVINCE UNDER CONTROL OF ARMY OFFICERS

Djakarta, Dec. 23.

The situation today in the rich Sumatra province of Indonesia, now under the control of a group of dissident Indonesian army officers, was reported to be quiet and normal.

However, Indonesian police in Djakarta feared that the military coup might spread to other regions of the country.

Not a single shot was fired when the provincial administration of North and Central Sumatra were taken over by the army office. Technically, Colonel Maludat Simbolon has seized power in both provinces.

He announced yesterday that the first military district broke away from the Central Government and did not recognise any longer the All Sastroamidjojo Government in Djakarta.

Not Yet Clear

On Friday, Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmad Hussein, one of Simbolon's subordinates, had already taken over the administration of Central Sumatra.

It was not yet clear today whether Hussein had recognised Simbolon's ultimate authority. But the Central Government-appointed governor of Central Sumatra and the governor of North Sumatra have expressed their hope that the steps taken by the army officers would bring changes for the better to the 18 million people of the two provinces.

Simbolon has urged President Soekarno and Mohamed Hatta, who resigned as Vice-President earlier this month, to reunite. Simbolon said yesterday: "The reunion of our people."

Simbolon stressed that he would remain loyal to the Indonesian independence proclamation, to the national red and white flag and to President Soekarno.

The Padang Central Sumatra radio reported tonight that the "military council" last appointed financial experts to control the financial situation of the provinces.

It was indicated that taxes and levies paid by foreign companies in the provinces would no longer be transferred to Djakarta.

The Indonesian Cabinet held a secret meeting today at the residence of Premier Sastroamidjojo. No details of the meeting were disclosed.

Meanwhile, President Soekarno attended a soccer match at Djakarta and saw an Indonesian team beaten five to one by the Yugoslav Olympic XI.

Last night, Soekarno addressed a convention of army veterans. He urged them to unite in a single organization to struggle for a prosperous country and social justice.

Necessary Step

Addressing Christian students at Sukadana, West Java, former Vice-President Hatta said the Indonesian "national revolution" was failed because it was not followed by a sound economic programme to achieve prosperity.

He urged the formation of a presidential cabinet. Autonomy should be granted to the various regions of the country as a necessary step to overcome the present situation, Hatta said.

Plane Crash Survivor Had Broken Ankle

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 24. Driver Thomas Lee, only survivor of the Bristol Freighter crash in Central Malaya on December 10, walked for 12 days to his rescue with a broken ankle, army sources said here last night.

Doctors who gave Lee a further medical examination at the British military hospital in Kluang, near Kuala Lumpur found he had a broken ankle and both his hands were burnt.

A Royal Air Force court of enquiry questioned driver Lee yesterday on the Bristol Freighter crash.

It is understood that Lee was sitting in the back of the plane when it crashed.

The next thing he knew was finding himself under a tree.

Driver Lee this evening sent a telegram to his mother in Atherton, Lancashire, wishing her a merry Christmas. —China Mail Special.

Cameroons Election

Yaounde, French Cameroons, Dec. 23.

Voters used slips marked with a bell, lamp, spider and other symbols to indicate their choice of candidate when they went to the polls today to elect a new territorial assembly.

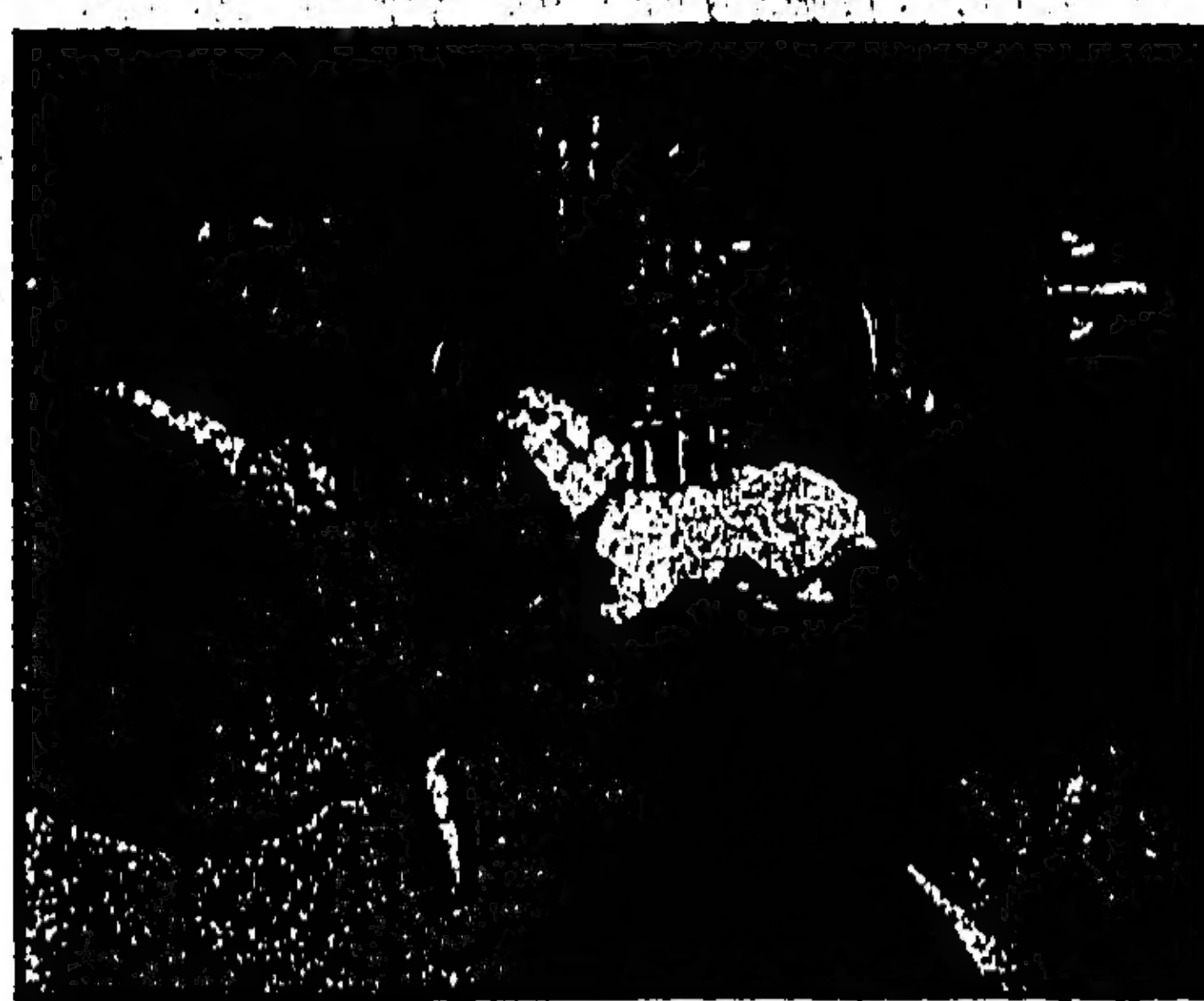
There are 332 candidates standing for the 70 assembly seats and 1,752,000 African and European voters have been registered.

First results of the election will be known tomorrow and early indications are that there may be a record poll.

The vital task of the new assembly will be to discuss a new status for this French Trust Territory as proposed by the French Government.

The new status is expected to give the Cameroons a form of autonomy within the French Union. After being debated and possibly amended by the Territorial Assembly, the status proposal will go to the French National Assembly for ratification. —China Mail Special.

SATCHEMO HITS NOTE



Upraised eyes and lifted fingers as American jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong reaches a note at the Royal Festival Hall, London. He was playing in a concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in aid of the Lord Mayor's Hungarian Relief Fund. Satchemo—short for Satchel-mouth—also sang.—Reutersphoto.

Ike And Nehru Differ Over Pakistan Aid

Washington, Dec. 23.

Differences of views concerning American military aid to Pakistan were reportedly manifested last week during the talks between the Indian Premier, Jawaharlal Nehru, and President Eisenhower.

Authoritative sources in Washington today refused to make any comment on the matter. These sources, however, indicated that chances were slight for an agreement on this point between the American and Indian heads of government.

India, it was pointed out, was not only engaged locally in a conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir, but also, for reasons of international policy, was opposed to the Baghdad pact, to which Pakistan belonged.

Complete Support

The American Government recently reaffirmed its intention to maintain its complete support for the Baghdad pact member nations.

This decision was explained in particular by the threats recently made against Iraq and Turkey, also members of the pact.

Canal Pilots Stand By

Cairo, Dec. 23.

The Egyptian authority responsible for the Suez Canal warned its pilots today to stand by to resume duty.

Although the pilots have not worked since the Anglo-French intervention six weeks ago, they have received full basic pay and allowances for November and December.

Fifty villas were set aside for pilots today at Port Tewfik, near Suez. —China Mail Special.

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Gomulka Plans To Oust Stalinists

Warsaw, Dec. 23.

Polish Communist Party chief, Vladislav Gomulka, will wait till after the general elections next month to revamp the party and weed out local salaried bureaucrats and "Stalinist" diehards, informed sources said today.

They based their forecast on the failure of "Liberal" Communists to oust the Steering Committee of the Party's Warsaw branch in a heated three days debate which ended last night.

The Steering Committee, and particularly its Secretary, M. Stanczak, had come under severe fire from party Liberals before the debate, which was highlighted by a nearly three hours speech by Gomulka.

Gomulka thus will follow a "wait and see" policy until a Party Congress can be held next spring with the full weight of public opinion and a new "non-Stalinist" Parliament behind it, the sources said.

Gomulka then intends to replace salaried local officials with non-paid worker representatives who would be elected by secret ballot and would not enjoy any special privileges, the sources added. —France-Press.

MISSILE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING BOMBER FLEET

Washington, Dec. 23.

The Defence Department said today an atomic-armed anti-aircraft missile capable of knocking out whole fleets of enemy bombers will take its place in the US arsenal in about two years.

The missile is the Army's Nike B, or Nike-Berkeley, a more advanced and lethal model of the Nike I missile which is now guarding 19 principal US cities against air attack.

Nike B has been several years in development and is now nearing the operational stage. It is capable of carrying atomic warheads and has range enough to take over the functions of a short range interceptor plane.

Rear Adm. J. H. Sides, Deputy to Defence Department Missile chief Egor Murphree, said in Chicago on Thursday that Nike B "will soon take its place alongside the Nike I missiles in defence of the continental United States."

Two Years

Sides said Nike B "will reach out into the short-range interceptor regime" and be capable of "carrying either normal high explosive warheads or warheads with sufficient power to sweep entire close formations of airplanes from the sky."

A Defence Department spokesman was asked how soon "soon" might be in military parlance. After checking with Sides' office, he said "this usually means about two years, more or less."

The spokesman added that Nike B is now in "an advanced state of testing" and that "decisions have been made to put the missile into operational use." —United Press.

SET FIRE TO FOREST

Tours, Dec. 23.

Armed Durlowanger, 30-year-old anthropologist, was goaded for five years here for setting fire to a forest to destroy spiders—his pet obsession.

He told the court that while he was interned during the war his German captors made him eat live spiders. Since the war he said his wife had found him one day burning spiders in a kitchen saucepan.

Durlowanger was charged with starting six forest fires but said he had started only one—and that not deliberately.

He said he was walking through the forest when he found spiders' webs barring his way.

"I couldn't stand it," Durlowanger said. "I struck several matches to destroy them. I didn't intend to do anything criminal." —China Mail Special.

T WAS the night before Christmas

when out in the road

Stood the old family bus, having lost its abode.

For the garage was empty and tidied with care

In hopes Santa might have a new car to spare.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

While thoughts of convertibles danced through their heads;

The Missy and I dreamed in front of the grate

Of our next leave at home in a new Ford V-8.

When out in the drive there arose such a roar

That I sprang from my chair and rushed straight to the door.

I threw back the bolt and peeped out in the night,

And saw, with the moon making everything bright,

A gift-laden sleigh swooping down from the stars,

St. Nick at the helm, driving eight shiny cars!

He swept around corners at breathtaking speeds,

Calling out to his swift-running powerful steeds:

"On CONSUL! On, ZEPHYR! On, CUSTOMLINE, too!"

As down through the Christmas Eve darkness they flew;

"Now, PERFECT! Now, ANGLIA! POPULAR! — Now!

Come MAINLINE! Come ZODIAC! Show them all how!"

They drew nearer swiftly then silently stopped,

And out of his vehicle Santa Claus hopped.

He paused not a moment but to his work dashed;

From trimming the tree to the stockings he flashed.

While Old Father Christmas was busy inside,

I gazed at his couriers and longed for a ride.

They had floated along with such grace and such poise,

So easily pulling that huge load of toys,

That I thought on the instant how nice it would be

To have a new Ford under our Christmas tree.

When Santa had finished, he sprang to his sleigh,

Pressed once on the starter and darted away.

But, thoughtful he circled 'round once, looking back,

And his gaze travelled down to our old-fashioned hack.

He had spotted the garage with doors gaping wide,

And I saw a broad smile that his beard couldn't hide.

Then as he sped onward, I managed to hear

His tip for the season, the gift of the year!

"Try HARPER'S on Thursday

he called with a grin,

"They've got the best cars —

and they'll trade that

thing in!"

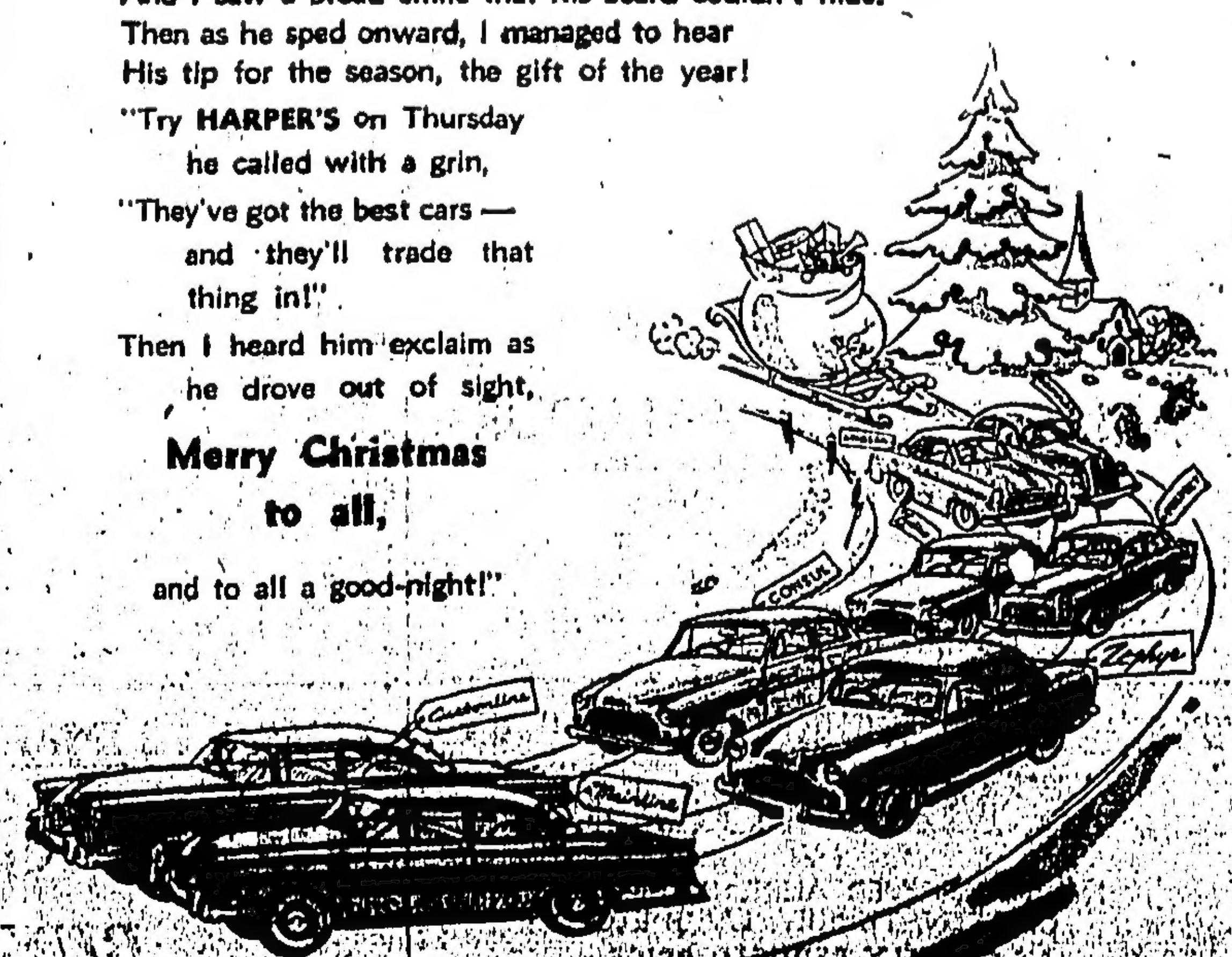
Then I heard him exclaim as

he drove out of sight,

Merry Christmas

to all,

and to all a good-night!"



WANTED: LOST GOLD BRICK

Moscow, Dec. 23.

Moscow's Ministry of Finance is trying to find a gold-brick weighing five and a half pounds—and it put a notice in the Moscow evening news asking the unknown owner to give it up to the state.

The Ministry's assayers' department is offering a reward of several hundred roubles for the gold-brick, one of three unearthed from under the floorboards of an old house in the Russian capital two years ago.

The housewife who made the discovery had no idea of their value. She used one to wedge the wheels of her baby's pram in the hallway—and the other to press cabbage for sauerkraut.

The third one she gave away . . . and this is the one the Finance Ministry is seeking.—China Mail Special.

New Envoy To Britain

Washington, Dec. 23.

American multi-millionaire John Hay Whitney has been chosen by President Eisenhower to replace Winthrop Alrich as Ambassador to Britain, it was indicated today.

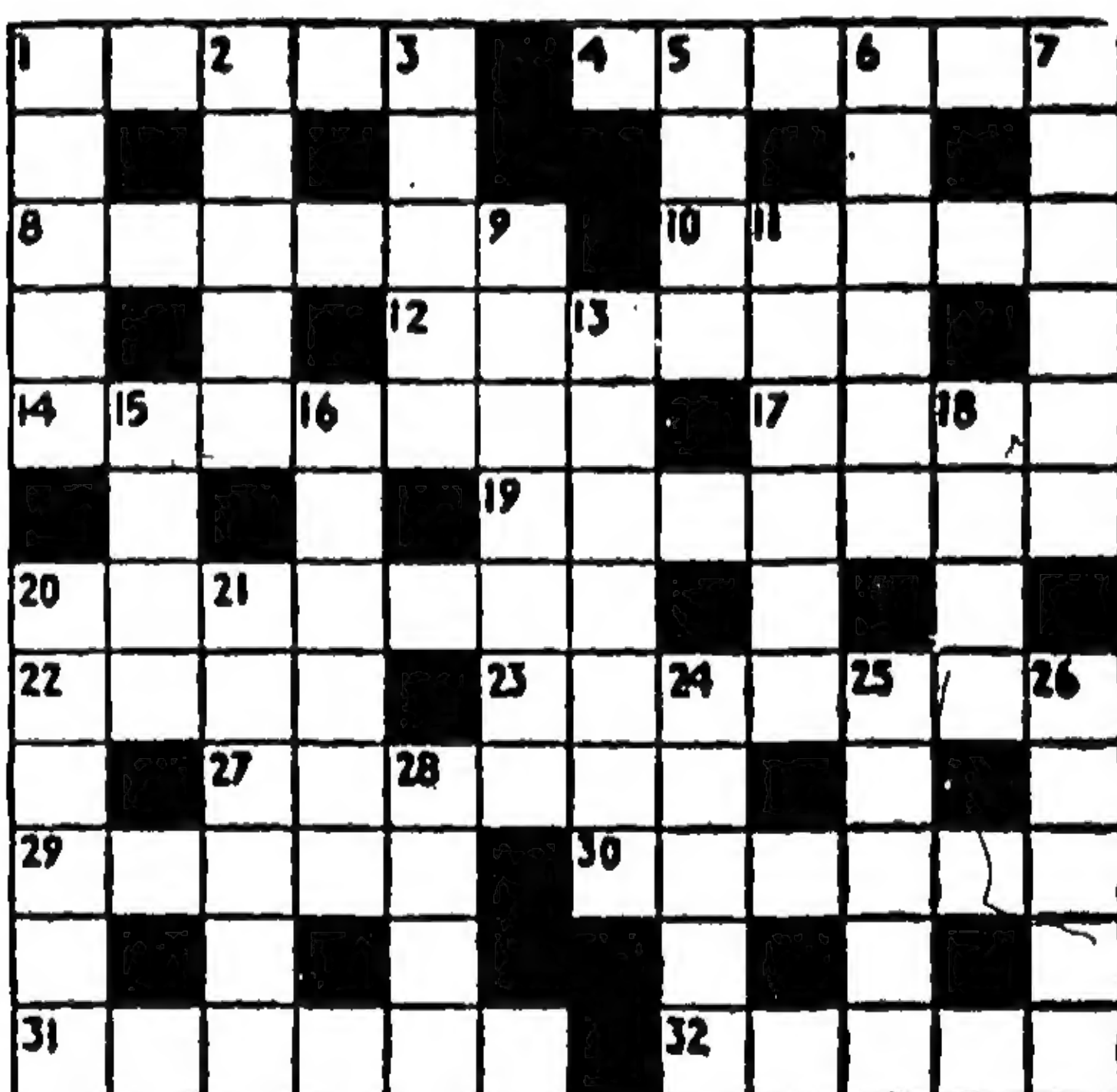
President Eisenhower said that the new Ambassador had replied that it was delighted by Eisenhower's choice.

Aldrich, 71 years old, was reported to be ready to retire. He has been American Ambassador to Britain since 1953.

Today he was named recipient of the 1957 Albert Einstein commemorative award for outstanding achievement in the field of citizenship.

Dr. Samuel Delkin, president of Yeshiva University, said Whitney was cited for his "creative initiative" in education, health, civic welfare and the arts and for his leadership in giving opportunities to talented Americans of all races and creeds. —France-Press & United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



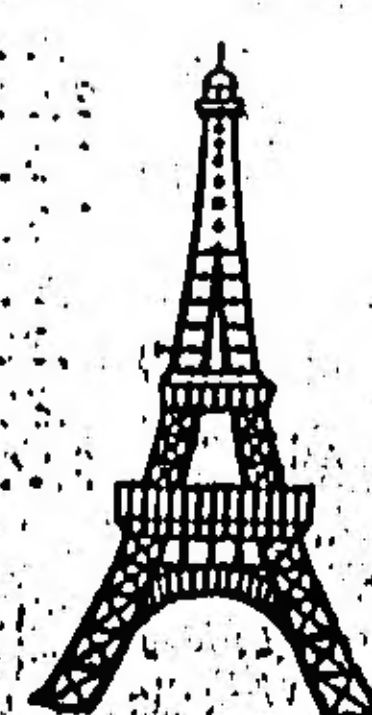
ACROSS

- 1 Imitating (5).
- 4 Language (6).
- 8 High cleric (6).
- 10 Scottish landowner (5).
- 12 Stop (6).
- 14 Afternoon performance (7).
- 17 Ditto (4).
- 19 Orbs (7).
- 20 Splendid (7).
- 22 Looks at (4).
- 23 Well-bred (7).
- 27 Expunged (6).
- 29 Letting contract (5).
- 30 Fur (6).
- 31 Round round a letter is round (6).
- 32 Follow (5).

DOWN

- 1 Book for stamps (5).
- 2 Insertion (6).
- 3 Sound of distress (5).
- 5 Look amorously (4).
- 6 Stringed instrument (6).
- 7 Whirlpools (6).
- 9 Forehead (7).
- 11 Agree (6).
- 13 Full (7).
- 15 Not at home (4).
- 16 Flowers (6).
- 18 Lake (6).
- 20 Vault (6).
- 21 One who overrates book-learning (6).
- 24 Pluck (6).
- 25 Sends out (5).
- 26 Vassal (5).
- 28 Incline, turning out of a lane (4).

SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 3 Ramblers, 8 Load, 9 Resolved, 11 Depleted, 13 Byre, 15 Convicted, 18 Liniment, 19 Team, 21 Organise, 25 Thirteen, 26 Hair, 27 MongOOSE. Down: 1 Fled, 2 Damp, 4 Abet, 5 Boos (booze), 6 Envoy, 7 Slide, 9 Robel, 10 Seven, 12 Slope, 14 Rends, 16 Nitre, 17 Divan, 19 Totem, 20 Allen, 31 Otto, 22 Gems, 23 Idea, 24 Earl.

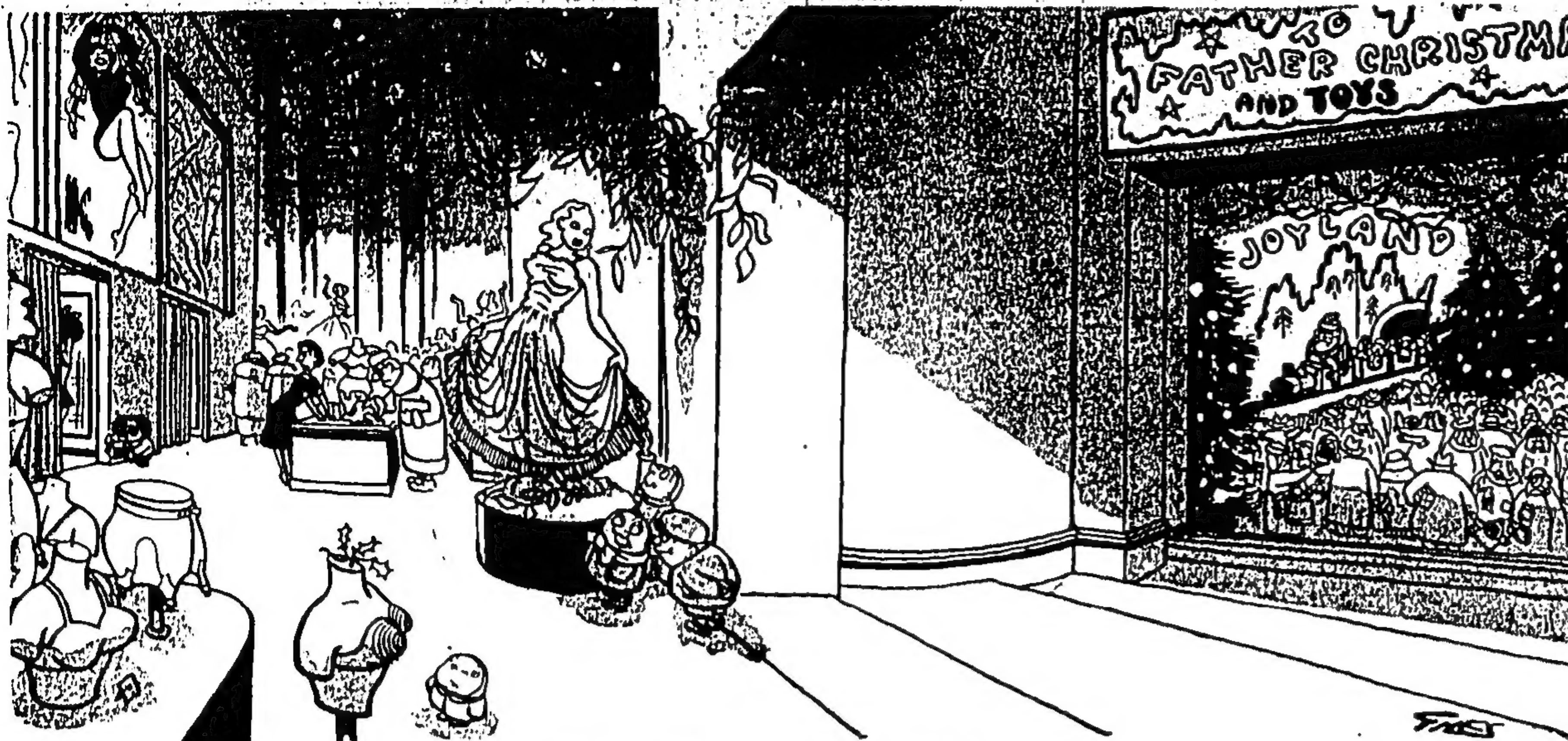


BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS from THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

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GILES AND THE HERALDS OF CHRISTMAS...



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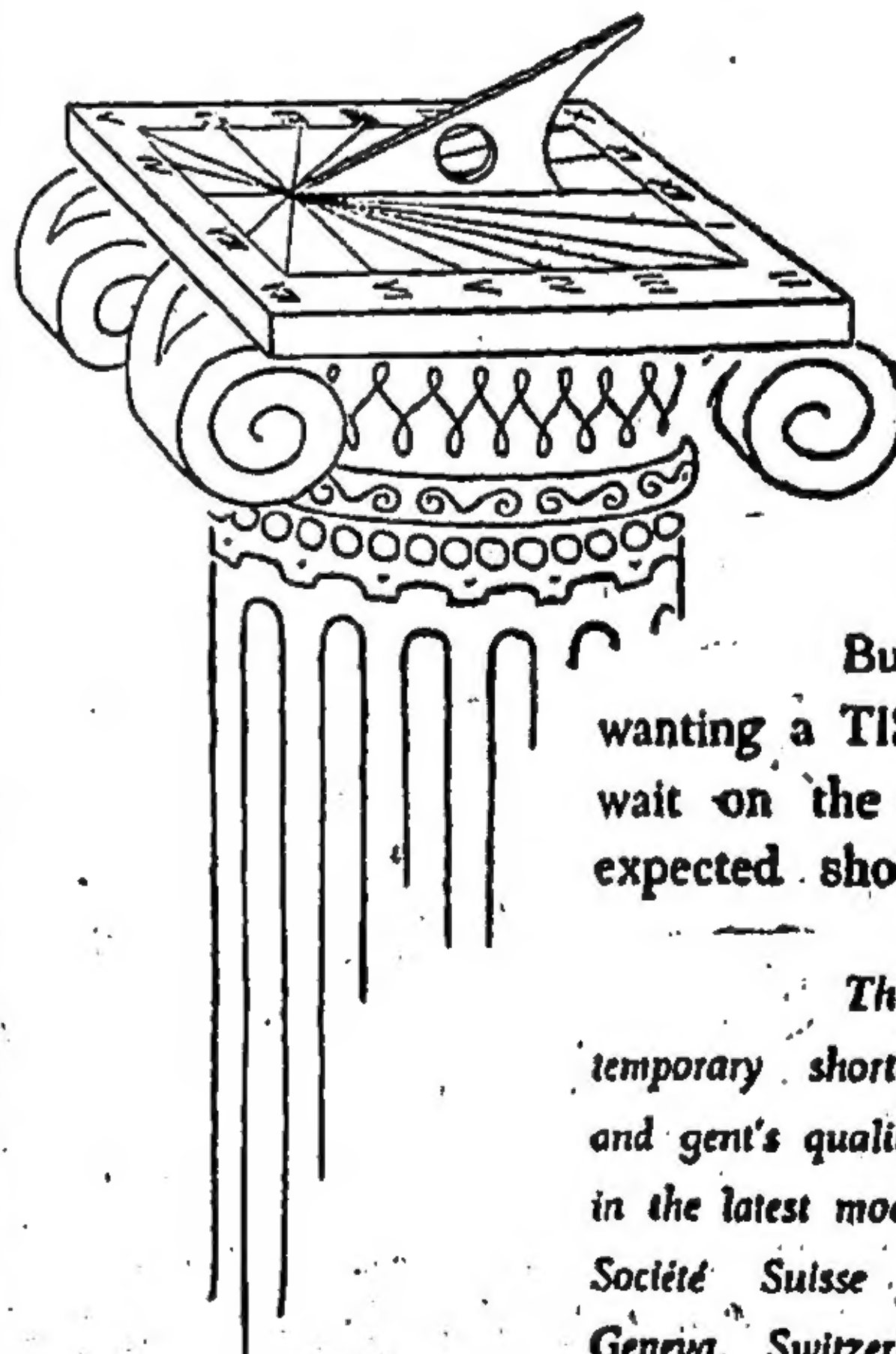


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TIME WAITS FOR NO MAN



But if you are one of the many wanting a TISSOT timepiece, it will pay to wait on the arrival of the 1957 collection — expected shortly.

The manufacturers of Tissot regret the temporary shortage and promise that their ladies and gent's quality timekeepers will shortly be available in the latest models, and all in the famed tradition of Société Suisse Pour l'Industrie Horlogère S.A. Geneva, Switzerland.



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IN THE WASHINGTON WASH:

IKE ASSESSING ALLURING NEW RUSSIAN PLAN

—By ALEXANDER BROAD

Washington. YOU can take it or leave it, but the story from Capitol Hill is that President Eisenhower is giving very careful consideration to the new Russian plan for withdrawal of foreign troops both East and West for a distance of 500 miles from a demilitarized zone in Central Europe.

The first reaction of the State Department was to dismiss the scheme (which incorporates part of Eisenhower's own "open skies" inspection plan) as so much propaganda.

It is significant that no reply along these lines has been drafted.

It is also true that Eisenhower has ordered a detailed study of the probable effects of such a plan—though this, in itself, could be just a prelude to a flat rejection of it.

People who ought to know what the President is thinking say that he is thinking that there might be a good deal in the plan.

In the first place, although the plan would force U.S. troops out of Germany, it would also force the Russians out of East Germany and much of Poland. The East German Regime would almost certainly collapse instantly.

With East Germany gone and Poland no longer in the official Empire, Czechoslovakia might break away too.

The prospect is alluring. Given one condition, the President might eventually agree to the Bulgarian plan.

That condition is that U.S. power of retaliation should no longer be dependent on the existence of a strong force in Germany.

That, in turn depends on progress with the development of ultra-long range missiles of sufficient accuracy to stop any Soviet advance in its tracks.

A little time ago, such missiles were largely a dream. Perhaps they are not now.

Going Broke

TAKING the US economy apart has long been the intellectual's favourite indoor sport.

The reasons, no doubt, are not hard to find—it is almost certainly the world's more complicated machine and, no matter how many parts you separate, there are always more to be found.

The trouble is that, having separated what he thinks to be the parts, the sportsman is always ready to suggest some new

way in which they ought to be put together—and there is usually some politician lurking about ready to take him up on it.

To take a current example of the sort of thing that happens:

About 292,000 small businesses will go broke in the U.S. this year. This is a fact that worries everybody, though it is not anything very new.

Nevertheless, the economy analysts have been busy trying to find out why. They have blamed the big corporations, the tax-collectors, the shortage of credit and a score of other things.

A complicated cabinet committee has peered into the problem for a long, long time and has now come up with proposals.

POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



"Speaking from the golf course or the operating theatre?"

which, in outlay and in lost revenue through tax cuts, will cost the government about \$500,000,000 a year at a conservative estimate.

These recommendations are thought to be a blow for freedom.

But will they save small businesses?

Dun and Bradstreet — the people who have a finger in just about everybody's credit — have done an analysis from the depths of their very considerable experience on the problems of businesses that go broke.

According to them 90.9 per cent of all collapsing businesses fail for one reason: inexperience.

Of the rest, 4.5 percent fail on account of neglect, 2.2 as a

result of fraud, and 1.6 as a result of disaster. As to the remaining 0.8, Dun and Bradstreet haven't been able to find any reason.

Presumably, by making more information available a government could assist the inexperienced. This is one of the things it proposes to do. But that accounts for only a fraction of its proposed effort.

As to neglect, the government does not propose to send out official minders of other people's businesses. Nor does it propose to tighten the law with regard to fraud. And disaster? Your guess is as good as mine.

Perhaps the new plans will help the remaining 0.8 of ruined businesses. The government may be smarter than Dun and Bradstreet. But how much more does it know?

Negro Vote

THE Republican Party is currently doing some hard thinking about the South.

Eisenhower has twice running broken the Democratic stranglehold on the Deep South, and there are now two Republican Senators and nine Republican Congressmen from the South.

The question, now, is simply—should the Republicans go ahead and build a party organization in the traditionally one-party South?

It is not such a simple question as it sounds. The Republicans won a large percentage of the Negro vote in the South. But few Negroes vote in the South. Some are kept away by legal dodges, some by simple fear.

Just enough vote to make their vote worth having. But not enough vote to run a political organization.

In the North, too, the Republicans cashed in on the Negro vote. They won this vote on account of their remarkably good civil rights record.

In the North, they can keep the Negro vote by keeping their civil rights record.

In the South it is different. The nine Republican Congressmen have joined their Democratic colleagues in signing the Southern Manifesto against racial integration in the schools.

Next time, many Negroes will think twice before they vote Republican. Many of them, just won't vote at all rather than be tricked.

Any Southern Republican organization would be likely to fall into the same trap. It could hardly fail to fall into the hands of the Southern blimey.

It is said that the good name of the Republican Party would be lost—and with it the Northern Negro vote.

What's best in Kowloon?



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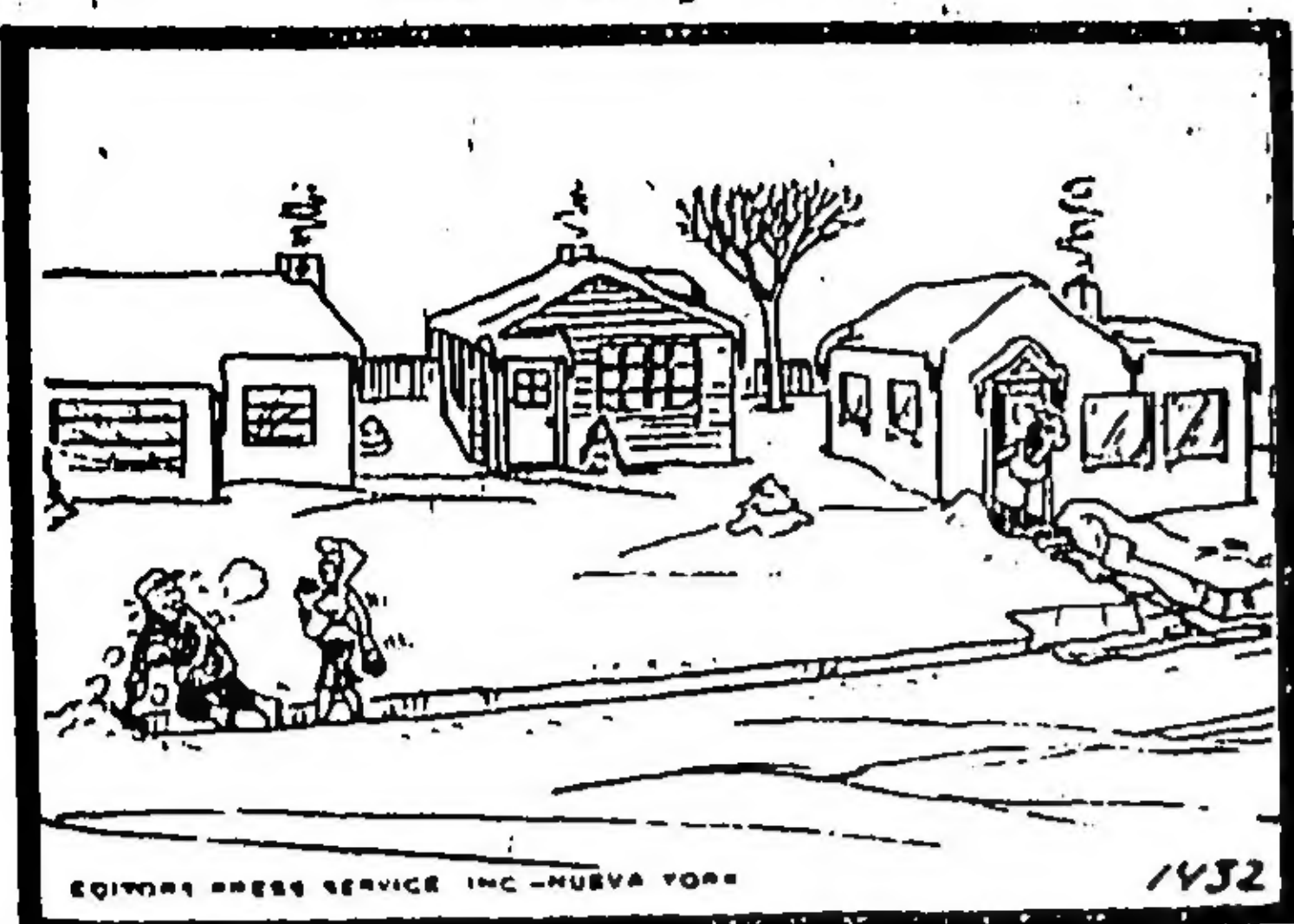
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This Funny World



"Ralph"

YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

BIRTHDAY is a day when you are likely to become the centre of attraction wherever you go. You are adventurous, often, to the point of recklessness, for there is nothing you will not dare. You have a keen mind and an inquiring intellect. You want to know as much as you can about everything. You are highly intelligent and have the capability of being able to turn your hand to almost anything. This versatility can be a handicap to your progress unless you are very careful, for it may encourage you to attempt too many things at once and the same time learn to appreciate if you want a rapid success.

Since you are highly individualistic, you would like to be in the center of the crowd, for which you are eminently fitted. This will give you an opportunity to make the fullest use of your originality and ingenuity. In addition, you

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

BIRTHDAY is a day when you are likely to become the centre of attraction wherever you go. You are adventurous, often, to the point of recklessness, for there is nothing you will not dare. You have a keen mind and an inquiring intellect. You want to know as much as you can about everything. You are highly intelligent and have the capability of being able to turn your hand to almost anything. This versatility can be a handicap to your progress unless you are very careful, for it may encourage you to attempt too many things at once and the same time learn to appreciate if you want a rapid success.

Since you are highly individualistic, you would like to be in the center of the crowd, for which you are eminently fitted. This will give you an opportunity to make the fullest use of your originality and ingenuity. In addition, you

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

BIRTHDAY is a day when you are likely to become the centre of attraction wherever you go. You are adventurous, often, to the point of recklessness, for there is nothing you will not dare. You have a keen mind and an inquiring intellect. You want to know as much as you can about everything. You are highly intelligent and have the capability of being able to turn your hand to almost anything. This versatility can be a handicap to your progress unless you are very careful, for it may encourage you to attempt too many things at once and the same time learn to appreciate if you want a rapid success.

Since you are highly individualistic, you would like to be in the center of the crowd, for which you are eminently fitted. This will give you an opportunity to make the fullest use of your originality and ingenuity. In addition, you

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

BIRTHDAY is a day when you are likely to become the centre of attraction wherever you go. You are adventurous, often, to the point of recklessness, for there is nothing you will not dare. You have a keen mind and an inquiring intellect. You want to know as much as you can about everything. You are highly intelligent and have the capability of being able to turn your hand to almost anything. This versatility can be a handicap to your progress unless you are very careful, for it may encourage you to attempt too many things at once and the same time learn to appreciate if you want a rapid success.

Since you are highly individualistic, you would like to be in the center of the crowd, for which you are eminently fitted. This will give you an opportunity to make the fullest use of your originality and ingenuity. In addition, you

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

BIRTHDAY is a day when you are likely to become the centre of attraction wherever you go. You are adventurous, often, to the point of recklessness, for there is nothing you will not dare. You have a keen mind and an inquiring intellect. You want to know as much as you can about everything. You are highly intelligent and have the capability of being able to turn your hand to almost anything. This versatility can be a handicap to your progress unless you are very careful, for it may encourage you to attempt too many things at once and the same time learn to appreciate if you want a rapid success.

Since you are highly individualistic, you would like to be in the center of the crowd, for which you are eminently fitted. This will give you an opportunity to make the fullest use of your originality and ingenuity. In addition, you

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

BIRTHDAY is a day when you are likely to become the centre of attraction wherever you go. You are adventurous, often, to the point of recklessness, for there is nothing you will not dare. You have a keen mind and an inquiring intellect. You want to know as much as you can about everything. You are highly intelligent and have the capability of being able to turn your hand to almost anything. This versatility can be a handicap to your progress unless you are very careful, for it may encourage you to attempt too many things at once and the same time learn to appreciate if you want a rapid success.

Since you are highly individualistic, you would like to be in the center of the crowd, for which you are eminently fitted. This will give you an opportunity to make the fullest use of your originality and ingenuity. In addition, you

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

BIRTHDAY is a day when you are likely to become the centre of attraction wherever you go. You are adventurous, often, to the point of recklessness, for there is nothing you will not dare. You have a keen mind and an inquiring intellect. You want to know as much as you can about everything. You are highly intelligent and have the capability of being able to turn your hand to almost anything. This versatility can be a handicap to your progress unless you are very careful, for it may encourage you to attempt too many things at once and the same time learn to appreciate if you want a rapid success.

Since you are highly individualistic, you would like to be in the center of the crowd, for which you are eminently fitted. This will give you an opportunity to make the fullest use of your originality and ingenuity. In addition, you

JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Backward Finesse Averts Disaster

By OSWALD JACOBY

DESPERATION caused South to adopt the winning line of play in today's hand. His play was against the odds, but he could see nothing else that would permit him to make his contract.

West opened the six of hearts, and dummy won at once with the ace. Dummy's king of spades held the most trick, but West took the second spade trick with the ace and led another heart. The defender took the rest of the hearts, ending in the East hand. East then led the eight of clubs.

South had already lost four tricks, and felt sure that West must hold the king of clubs and the queen of diamonds to account for his overall of one diamond. Declarer saw that there could be no advantage in taking the club finesse or in finessing the diamonds

NORTH 31			
AKQ109			
A9			
K42			
632			
WEST			
A7			
78			
Q8765			
K9			
EAST			
8532			
K103			
103			
K108			
SOUTH (D)			
04			
542			
A9			
AQ743			
Neither side vul			
South	West	North	East
1	1	1	Pass
1NT	Pass	3	Pass
3NT	Pass	3	Pass
Opening lead—♥6			

normally. Instead he put up the ace of clubs and led the lack of diamonds through East.

West happily agreed with the queen of diamonds, knowing that he would be able to take the queen and South eventually made two more tricks and took the rest of the hand to fulfill his contract. The "backward finesse" in diamonds had saved declarer.

CARD SENSE

Q—The bidding has been:

North East South West

1NT Pass 7

You South, hold:

AJ93 ♠ 984 ♦ K5 ♣ 632

A—Pass. Do not disturb one

no-trump with a balanced hand

and less than 8 points.

TODAY'S QUESTION

The bidding is the same as in

the question just answered. You,

South, hold:

AKQ83 ♠ AQ84 ♦ AS AQ32

What do you do?

Answer on Thursday

CROSSWORD

Across

1. Bede's Mary (anag.). (10, 4)

2. Don't put your head into this. (12)

3. If you're on this, it's best not to sleep. (4, 6)

4. The American soldier before Victory in Europe. (14)

5. Happiness. (10)

6. Knowledge in Regent-street. (13)

7. The keep the Dowers from the mud! (5)

8. She organizes the reading. (10)

9. Metal before working it in a ship. (5)

10. Fisherman's price? (10)

11. Swede got the needle. (5)

12. The animal has thanks in the middle. (10)

Down

1. Dan's green (anag.). (9)

2. Indigo is a tenuous colour for (1, 4)

3. Patty for Oriol? (1, 6)

4. Learning heron in red has a double ending. (10)

5. Sounds like a coloured man talking of cyclops. (10)

6. Curious. (9)

7. By one somewhat altered. (10)

8. A highly coloured document. (10)

9. A. A. T. (10)

10. A. A. T. (10)

11. A. A. T. (10)

12. A. A. T. (10)

13. A. A. T. (10)

14. A. A. T. (10)

15. A. A. T. (10)

16. A. A. T. (10)

17. A. A. T. (10)

18. A. A. T. (10)

19. A. A. T. (10)

20. A. A. T. (10)

CHESS

by LEONARD BARDEN

From actual play: Black to move and win.

Solution to Saturday's problem: 1. Bxg3—a most surprising move, your knight impales the king.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Broken Dinner Date

—General Tin Didn't Like His Place At The Table—

By MAX TRELL

"GENERAL TIN," said Knarf, the shadowy boy with the turned-about nose, "everyone says you are a wonderful hunter."

"Well," said General Tin, dropping his eyes modestly, "I don't think I'm a wonderful hunter. I'm just a very good hunter, an excellent hunter, you might say."

Knarf didn't see much difference but as long as General Tin decided he would rather be called an excellent hunter than a wonderful hunter, that was all right with Knarf, too.

A Hunting Story

"General Tin," said Knarf again, "would you mind telling me a hunting story? Tell me please about some of the wild animals that you've hunted—the really big fierce ones."

"You mean," said General Tin, "animals like lions and tigers and crocodiles?"

Knarf nodded. "That's right," he said.

Again General Tin dropped his eyes modestly.

"I never hunted them," he said.

Knarf exclaimed in surprise. "You didn't?"

"No," said General Tin, "I never hunted lions or tigers or crocodiles. The fact of the matter is that they hunted me."

Knarf wanted to know more about this.

General Tin, who was standing by the playground door with his basket over his shoulder,

Rupert and the Old Chimney—14

Peter leads the way round a bend in the corridor. "Hello, there's my little dog, Spot," he says. "Have you met him? Hi, Spot, come and talk to Rupert."

But Spot is gazing intently at the wall and doesn't move, far even when the two friends keep calling him.

"What's that?" says Rupert. "I can't see anything there's no mousehole," murmurs Peter. "Perhaps he was listening to something," suggests Rupert. "Does he hear more than we do?"

"Well, I can't hear a sound," says Peter. "Anyway, let's not wait any longer."

Knarf said he was sure of that.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

If you wax the edges of window screen frames, using a paste wax, it will prevent sticking, and the frames will be much easier to set in place when putting them up.

Rubber tile makes the perfect flooring for a nursery, as it can be kept immaculate with just the whisk of a mop, is resilient and muffles noise.

To keep patent leather shoes and bags clean and shiny, rub them occasionally with a clean, dry cloth. Apply petroleum jelly, then a clean, dry cloth. Polish to make a shine.

BY THE WAY

By Beachcomber

A WOMAN has complained

A that she "could not make

head or tail" of a couple of

sausage she had bought.

They were probably those In-

scrutable Oriental sausages.

"Sausage" as the bowing

grocer said to the Arab house-

wife.

(ENTER the Ladies' Groceries

and Quainties.)

Mansanwidger

Group examined

Goochboote: Now Mr Mansan-

widger: Mansanwidger.

Goochboote: As you wish Now,

in order to achieve a meteoric rise

in the aquarium world, you feign

sickness by the unusual method of

wearing a wig over your own hair.

Mansanwidger: That is, no. My

hairs were always saying to me,

"At this rate, you will be churning

the eels' water when you're a

grandfather."

Goochboote: Had you been pro-

moted at all since joining the

aquarium?

Mansanwidger: Once From Japan-

one place to another.

Goochboote: What made you

choose this career?

Mansanwidger: It's peaceful, and

just like the peaked cap and my

father had an American model two

given him by an explorer.

Is it Love?

ASKED whether Captain Four-

tough was still in love with

Vita Brevis, Mrs. Wiggins said,

"The Captain is in love with

as easy as going up Mount Matter-

horn on roller skates. He isn't

even giving me a second's thought

not to give me a second's thought

even after he's said 'I love you'.

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even after he's said 'I love you'.

WOMANSENSE

Comfort In The Kitchen

By HAZEL MEYRICK

London.

HOW do you rate your

kitchen? Is it a clean,

antiseptic-looking clinic; a

homely, friendly room

where guests tend to con-

gregate, or a hopeless

jumble of ill-assorted ap-

pliances, with awkward

corners that the broom

can't reach?

Too many kitchens are never

planned—they just happen.

Even if you are starting from

scratch, with an empty purse,

it pays to decide how you

want your kitchen to be, and

avoid that jumble sale look.

The career woman who is

out most of the time, wants a

small labour-saving room that

is easily kept clean and tidy.

But the housewife who is

home all day may like a less

impractical place, somewhere

where she can sit and relax, if

she gets the chance, serve

snacks, and lunch to the chil-

dren when they come in from

school.

Chief culprits in the kitchen

are haphazardly chosen kit-

chen cabinets and working

tops of differing height and

depth which make cleaning a

menace, so it's not surprising

that many London housewives

have caught onto the idea of

choosing their dream kitchen

from one range of furniture,

buying the units piecemeal as

they can afford them.

A new range of inexpensive

furniture has just been

launched in London. It can be

bought piece by piece and

renewed together to make one

continuous, made-to-measure

working top just right for the

smaller kitchen. The individual

pieces are only eighteen inches

deep—this range of furniture

being exported all over the

world by its London manufac-

turers, includes bright ideas

like a cupboard with sliding

galvanised racks for vegetables,

a sink unit with space for a

washing machine beneath, and

a built-in garbage container,

plus a small kitchen dresser

with a special, metal-lined

bread compartment.

All these pieces will stand on

their own, or can be fitted

together to give a built-in look.

Not just in green-and-cream,

they are made in lively colours

such as red, blue and pink and

are, incidentally, the cheapest

units on the market at the

moment.

The firm supply a brochure

giving exact measurements of

each unit, and the housewife

spends her leisure hours puz-

zling her kitchen on paper, then

buys it piece by piece.

Stainless steel sink units

look good, are easy to keep

clean, but some housewives

complain that their shining

surface is tiring to the eyes.

Now one London firm has

brought out a steel sink unit

with a softer, satin-finish

which, they claim, is less liable

to show scratches than the

super-glossy variety, is more

EASTERN 2, SING TAO 0

IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN
AVALANCHE OF GOALS
FOR EASTERN

Says "TOUCHWOOD"

The weather was dreadful. Even worse was the play in the Sing Tao-Eastern encounter when these teams clashed in a Senior Division League match at the Hongkong Football Club ground yesterday.

In what was expected to be a good match to watch for the fact that the Tigers had pulled a major upset of the season early this month when they smothered a 3-2 win from South China, top contenders for this season's honours, there was practically nothing to shout about.

However, an amusing scene after 18 minutes of play had the crowd roaring with laughter as, immediately after Eastern had opened the scoring through a right-winger, Fung Chun-tak, Ko Po-keung, who was unfielded at that moment was seen clutching at his shorts which had a slit from top to bottom, leaving the whole lot

attempts at goal would have found the net had he had that much accuracy.

Good goalkeeping by the Tigers' Yu Yu-tak prevented an avalanche of goals by Eastern when they attacked in force. Yu on several occasions dived practically at the feet of the opposition without due regard to his safety.

After a whirlwind start, Sing Tao led their touch when Eastern had them running all over the field. A lovely centre by He Yu-fan to Lo Kwok-tai was a later heading as a by-product that missed the net.

During their half from the opening whistle, the Tigers pounced on the ball with such vigour and dash that for a moment it looked like they would succeed in scoring an early formulaic goal in Eastern's half. But it was not to be. The

TWO IN FORM

In the Eastern attack, it was a grand effort by the last-minute players who were tackling steadily in a fight to attack that they tried to bring

Sing Tao's attack. Ko Po-keung, Fung Chun-tak, and Chung Tien-tai were the main players in the Eastern attack. Ko Po-keung, Fung Chun-tak, and Chung Tien-tai were the main players in the Eastern attack.

FRANIS

Eastern's main players were Fung Chun-tak, Ko Po-keung, and Chung Tien-tai. They were the main players in the Eastern attack.

Keng-chuen, Chang Kam-hoi, Tsang King-kwong, Tam Sum-chuen.

KMB 3, Kwong Wah 1

This was a match of injuries, a procession of players leaving the field and then limping back to rejoin the fray. And strangely enough the side which suffered most were the winners—Kowloon Motor Bus.

After a 1-1 first half score, KMB led 2-1 after the second half. The reason for this was that the Kowloon Motor Bus players were not injured.

With these circumstances in their favour, the Kwong Wah boys instead of getting the better of the exchanges, were a

bestial lot.

Had Kwong Wah played a better brand of soccer they could have taken an early lead, and then forwards—especially Chow Tung-chuen, Leung Lam, and Law Tak-ning—were

the main players in the Kwong Wah attack. They were the main players in the Kwong Wah attack.

STAR EVENTS

The Ladies' High Jump proved one of the day's best events, with Kwong Pui-yuen clearing 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 100 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 800 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 1,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 3,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 6,400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 12,800 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 25,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 51,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 102,400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 204,800 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 409,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 819,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 1,638,400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 3,276,800 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 6,553,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 13,107,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 26,214,400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 52,428,800 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 104,857,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 209,715,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

HKAAA OPEN MEETING

2 Colony Records,
Many Ill, Maimed,
But Not A Bad Meet

By "RECORDER"

Two Colony records were the feature of yesterday's Second HKAAA Open Athletic Meeting of the current season. Bob Pape lowered the 10,000 Metres Run record to 31 minutes 47.6 seconds, an Olympic first 10 class performance by the standards of 1948 and the London Games, and Keung Pui-chen deprived Mrs Johanna Van Vliet of one of her three Colony records as she reached 89 feet 5½ inches in the Ladies' Discus Throw.

Other noteworthy features were the return of Stephen Xavier who, without having done any training in the last 18 months, still managed to get second place in the 200 Metres Dash, and the good form of the jumpers despite poor conditions.

The meeting will also go down in history as the first at which Miss Jean Proctor's St George's School girls put in an appearance. They did nothing very special, but what they did accomplish was most impressive in the circumstances.

There isn't a Champion among them yet, but by novices' standards they were most promising novices and few of our Colony Champions of the past did anything near as well their first time out. Which only goes to show how much enthusiasm and training can do.

Here are some St George's first time performances—a 30.2 over 200 Metres, 4 feet 5 inches in the High Jump, 14 feet 6½ in the Long Jump and 24 feet 11 inches in the Shot Put by Carol Brundie, fourth place in the 100 Metres, 4 feet 2 inches in the High Jump and 63 feet 1½ inches in the Discus Throw by Christine Hurlbert.

STAR EVENTS

The Ladies' High Jump proved one of the day's best events, with Kwong Pui-yuen clearing 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 100 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 800 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 1,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 3,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 6,400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 12,800 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 25,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 51,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 102,400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 204,800 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 409,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 819,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

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The Ladies' 104,857,600 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 209,715,200 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

The Ladies' 419,430,400 Metres was won by Jennifer Hart, who cleared 4 feet 8 inches, a performance bettered in the history of Colony athletics only by Jennifer Hart and Deborah Hurlbert.

THE HEXANGULAR TOURNAMENT

Club Surprise Everyone
By Dropping Two Points
To The Airmen

By "PAK LO"

To everyone's surprise on Saturday afternoon the Club, which had produced such an excellent record in the first part of the season, went down for the second time in succession, this time to the RAF, by 11 points (1 goal, 2 penalty goals) to 5 points (1 goal).

In the other game on the Club ground the Navy, as expected, won comfortably over the Police by 18 points (4 tries, 2 penalty goals) to nil, while at Sek Kong in a hard battle the Army North scored 9 points (2 tries, 1 penalty goal) to Army South's 9 points (1 try, 2 penalty goals) to produce yet another drawn match.

In the friendly match the Club "B", with their guest scrum half and Valentine forming a perfect combination, upset the heavily favoured Kanlers "B" XV by 13 points (2 goals, 1 try) to 5 points (1 goal) in a hard, fast, tough and exciting game.

Club v. RAF

Until Roberts, the Club full back, had to leave the field due to a head injury the Club were definitely on top. Their forwards kept the very dangerous RAF pack completely subdued, and in the loose the Club wing forwards pinned down every attack the Airmen tried to start.

Meffan was also sending the ball out with a regularity that gave the RAF little chance of scoring their three, while the Club three moved at long last with a smartness that has not been seen from the Club in a long time.

On his play on Saturday Lloyd showed easily retain his place, for he seldom missed a pass, and then only when it was a bad one, and as a result the ball was going to the wings from almost every move.

Only good covering by the RAF kept the score down in the first half, and it looked as if the Club would walk it. Then with Roberts out Penman went on the wing and Stevens dropped back to full back. This was just what the RAF needed for their extra weight in the scrums now began to tell and the extra man in the loose made all the difference.

The Club never stopped fighting, but they could no longer contain the RAF pack. For the last ten minutes the Club threw everything into an attack and literally camped five yards from the RAF line, but they just could not break through the defence.

O'Kelly tried a drop but did not have time to steady himself and missed narrowly. The RAF three were best in the centre where Cornah and Fraser shone, particularly the latter, and the Airmen will miss him when he leaves shortly.

Hope showed much more promise on the wing than he has done of late, and had he been given more of the ball might have increased the RAF's total.

I have pleasure in reporting that the ill-fated mascot given to the Club recently was burned unceremoniously after the match. Since the appearance of this mascot the Club has been losing, so it was felt that its

removal might improve their luck.

THE PLAY

The Club swept into the attack right from the start but the Airmen held them at bay until a good three moves by the Airmen took play to the Club 25 where a penalty was awarded and Macnamara converted.

A few minutes later after both sides had mixed penalties O'Kelly took the ball from a penalty attempt and sent Penman away up the field, leaving the RAF pack all on the wrong side of the field.

A Club three move followed but a pass was intercepted and three minutes later the Airmen were in possession and Penman dribbled the loose ball on at his feet and was stopped with feet to go Elliott backing up well, grabbed it and carried it across the line for a try rich, the score O'Kelly converted 3-0.

That was the half time score but within ten minutes of the second half it was a different picture, for with Roberts missing the RAF took charge and despite the efforts of Miller and Wright the RAF pack began to send the ball out to its three.

From a Club fumble the Airmen passed to within 20 yards of the Club line and were there awarded a penalty which Macnamara converted.

The RAF kept up the pressure and scored and then the Club tried back and just as they were making another attack one of the Airmen's scrum half sent the ball backwards without looking. There was no one there and Read took it first and left the way to the line where he scored under the posts Macnamara converted 11-3.

Police v. Navy

The Police, as usual, ruled too much on their forwards, and, though they were a definite danger, particularly Walker and Forsythe, they lacked the strength behind the scrum.

Lewis and Lloyd settled down at all well until it was top late and the Police tackling in defence, with one outstanding exception, was very poor. The one exception was Scott who time and time again saved his line with a terrific tackle.

The Navy three were not half as good as last week, and against a stronger tackling fifteen would have got nowhere. Newton was outstanding in the Navy three with Figg a close second, but Lloyd was disappointing and like Newton seemed to have an aversion to letting the ball go out of his hands.

But if the Navy passing was not all it could have been, the Police passing was dreadful. This was not an exciting game for both sets of three insisted on kicking the ball upfield into the full back's hands. There was no proper cross kicking for the forwards, and there was a lot of loose hacking by both sides.

THE PLAY

The Police spent most of the first half on the attack, but failed away

in the second half when they could find no answer to the Navy three move.

In the 22nd minute Newton nearly broke through on his own but was caught when he failed to pass out. A penalty was awarded and Kay converted, 3-0.

A few minutes later (corner, who again combined well with Bakula, broke through from a lineout on the Police 25. He actually went through the centre of the lineout and scored in the corner despite a last second tackle by Johnston who had been caught out of position. Kay missed, 6-0.

In the last minute of the first half Corner got a loose ball, made an attempt to pass to Judd, who in turn sent Figg over in the corner. Kay missed the conversion, 9-0.

In the tenth minute of the second half Johnston was caught in possession and Figg went through-out own wicket and scored. Navy were very definitely on top and only their own weakness stopped them from piling on the points.

Just before the end of the game the Navy players were injured and was carried off the field on a stretcher, and was detained in hospital at present.

Even missing a man, the Navy were too strong for the Police and Corner added three points when he went through on his own from a free-kick, and finally Kay converted a penalty to make it 18-0.

Army North v. Army South

The result of this game was just about right, for there was little to choose between either team. The Army North were, if anything, slightly better in the loose, but the Army South had the advantage of the scrums.

Turnbull again had an excellent day and Riley of the Southerners shone, but both sides had good kickers in Phipps and Pritchard and in this respect Army South were the luckier for they got more chances than did Army North. Oddly enough, despite the fact that the game there were few infringements, and the result was an attractive match.

Turnbull capped the scoring when he went blind under the scrum to score well. The conversion was missed, 3-0. The Army South managed to level the score with a nice penalty conversion by Phipps just before half time, and in the second half the Army South went ahead from another penalty conversion by Phipps, but in retaliation the Army South were billed from a ten-yard scrum to score well out. The conversion was missed.

Once more it was Army South which took the lead when Riley scored a free-kick in the half, away line and went through the defence to score in the corner. The conversion was missed. There was no further scoring until the last minute when Pritchard levelled the score with a penalty conversion in the half way line.

HOW TEAMS STAND

And now the Hexangular Table, which provides some interesting food for thought.

RAF 4 2 2 0 37 24 0
Navy 3 4 2 1 1 35 10 5
Army S. 4 1 1 1 4 28 5 5
Army N. 4 1 2 1 57 25 4
Club 4 2 2 0 2 25 22 4
Police 4 0 0 4 9 9 0 0

INSTRUCTIONS: Fill in the spaces against each of the clues below with a word related to my life. The letters in circles spell out my name. Who am I?

1 Cowboy story?
2 Empire builders?
3 Hoel
4 They are canvases
5 These assets
6 Countries?
7 Continent
8 Steel town
9 Such a bonnet
10 Slink
11 Sea level?

Solution on Page 9

GOLDEN CHURN

Christmas Greetings

CATHAY PACIFIC

THE GAMBOLE

Barry Appleby

LOOKED UP UNTIL CHRISTMAS

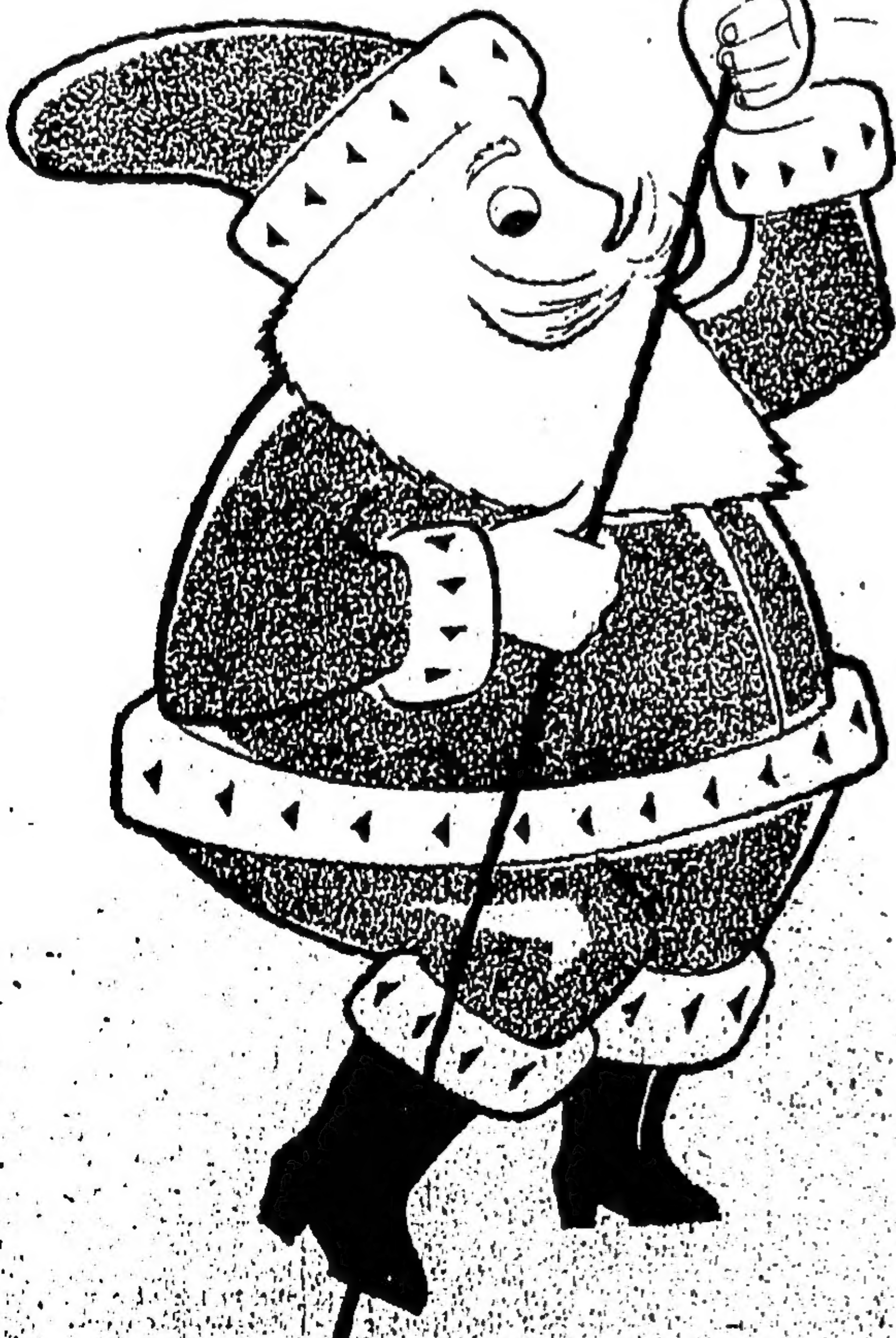
WHERE IS IT, GAY?

LATER DID THE WINGS ARRIVE, DEAR?

I'LL CALL IN AND ORDER THE BEER AND WINGS FOR CHRISTMAS TO DAY

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LEAGUE CRICKET

Watch Out For
Army North In The
Second Round

The halfway stage leaders in the First Division of the Cricket League—Army South, the Optimists and KCC—are hereby warned that there is a very much top bracket class team to be met in the second round of League matches.

Army North have recovered from their very indifferent start to the season and on Saturday, despite Greenhalgh, one of their most valuable players, being on the injured list, they won a most meritorious four points from the HKCC Scorpions at Chater Road.

Meritorious, indeed, for it would normally require a good bowling side to get rid of a batting side spearheaded by batsmen of the calibre of Stanton, Pearce and Weller in two hours.

On Saturday Army North accomplished this feat in one and a half hours, largely through the efforts of two medium to fastish bowlers in Vickers and Davey.

Army North declared at 201 for seven wickets, the batting being nothing too exceptional except for that of the opening pair, Alcoe and Bell, who put on 71 for the first wicket.

There was, of course, nothing very exceptional in the Scorpions' bowling. This is curious to record when one considers

how happy any team would have been three years ago with a set of bowlers like Frank Howarth, Tony Weller, Len White, Ivor Stanton and Donald Leach. On Saturday, Howarth now a shade of the old craftsman, did as well as anyone else.

After Army North had batted for two and a quarter hours, much longer than was necessary, Scorpions began in fine style with a first wicket stand of 43 between Hill and Stanton. With Hill's departure, the rot set in, Stanton going at 52, Owen-Hughes at 57, Weller at 72, Roberts at 84 and the rest with little more than 90 on the board.

THE GAMBOLE

Barry Appleby

LOOKED UP UNTIL CHRISTMAS

WHERE IS IT, GAY?

LATER DID THE WINGS ARRIVE, DEAR?

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CAFEASPIN BAYER

American "Olympic" Team Put On A Grand Display For Baseball Fans

By "TIME OUT"

Local diamond enthusiasts were treated to a fine display of baseball by the touring USA "Olympic" Baseball Team at Caroline Hill yesterday afternoon. Braving the nippy weather and slight drizzle, this season's largest crowd of fans watched with wonder as the "Olympic" squad ploughed through a baseball "clinic" showing the finer points of the game as it should be played, followed by a five-inning scuffle among the team members.

Team coach Sergeant Koziatek handled the reins in yesterday's performances, running his men through the various tricks and techniques of first-class baseball to the delight of local fans. Starting off, the correct batting stance was shown with batmen facing the pitcher first on the right hand side of the batter's box, then on the left.

The show then moved on to the great game-winning tactics of bunts. Players on the bench took turn in the box to drop bunts to the infield, going through the whole motion from the time the pitcher winds up the batter in the hitting stance position, then the swift slide of the hands down the bat with the body facing the pitcher, dropping the bunt and the run-out at first base.

On these plays the infielders executed some marvellous pick-ups on the run and in one continuous motion whipped the ball to the initial sack with unerring accuracy.

The drag bunt was then shown, the ball being pushed out its path instead of the dead dropping of the drop-bunt. A base was detached and the famous "hook slide" was demonstrated. Star-player Riley straddled the sack while his mates streaked in for the slide on a given signal followed by the ball.

Dust was kicked up as the "steal" was illustrated, first with the left foot hooking the bag, then with the right. Systematically, the play moved to infield practice with the rifle-armed infielders relaying the old pill back and forth with lightning speed.

With a runner on first base, coach Koziatek showed how his boys cut off the potential run with double plays at the keystone and first base. Questioned on the point about double plays with the ball being hit to the first baseman, manager Colonel Weissinger stated that it normally depended on the situation of the play but, more often than not, on a double play commencing at first base, the pitcher takes the relay back from second for the final half of the twin kill as the second baseman will be needed at his post for the cover-up.

NAILING TECHNIQUE
Catcher Cochran then showed how he nailed base stealers on the path with his ripe-armed whip across the diamond. Runners were planted on first with a slight lead, the pitcher meanwhile keeping a watchful eye to see that the lead was not too big prior to the pitch.

On release of the pitch, the runner made a break for second while Cochran, in a machine-like motion, whipped the ball back to second for the put-out.

With runners on first and third, the cut-off play was shown, catching the runner from third break for the plate on the relay to second, the second baseman races across the diamond to cut off the throw and whips it back to the plate to nail the incoming base-stealer.

With the baseball "clinic" over, the team split up for a five-inning game that featured some brilliant plays from both sides.

On the blue-shirted side were the team's defensive strength with five pitchers and two catchers filling in the various spots in the field, while the red-shirted side featured their spearhead in the offensive, punching all their sluggers and first-stringers in the squad.

Cochran Koziatek, holding the mound flag for the latter and turned in a fine game, holding the opposition to four scattered hits while speedballer Martinez was tagged for the loss, yielding six telling blows, including a homer and a triple.

With the "Blues" failing to score their initial chapter, the "Reds" jumped into an early lead. Starting off, centre-fielder Finch towered a long ball to left for a ground-rule double and advanced on a fumble.

Pfeiffer poked a long one to centre for the first out and Finch scored on the catch. Black then doubled into the left-field stands while slugger Riley was passed.

load the bases but Cochran failed in the clutch and the side was retired.

QUITE A BATTLE

Fighting back gamely, Clement opened the second frame with an infield hit and advanced on Pogliani's liner through the windy-alley. Two rapid outs threatened the rally when an attempted pick-off at first saw the ball sailing wide of its mark and Clement scooting across the plate. Pogliani, hot on the heels of Clement on the basepaths, also tried for the plate with the equaliser but the relay rang true and he was plastered for the third out.

With the drizzle making the ball slippery and elusive, the "Reds" jumped at the opportunity to win the game. After Koziatek and Finch got on safely on infield miscues, second sacker Pfeiffer lowered the "boom" with a ringing three-run homer, the ball lowering into the outfield to rest on the roof of the stadium at left field.

Black drew a free ticket to first but was left stranded as the opposition settled down to steady playing to clinch Riley, Lasser and Griesser in a quick one-two-three order.

While "Kozie" had his own lads on the opposing side eating out of his hands, his mates chafed at the more lolly in the third to lead 6-1. In this chapter catcher Cochran stole the show with his many crazy capers on the field that had fans rolling with laughter.

Latching on to a fat pitch after one out, he sent it screaming high into left field. Following the ball on its flight in that sector, Dolson overlooked the slight embankment, tripped and sprawled on to the running track while the "pill" casually dropped out of reach.

Ignoring the wave-off at third base, Cochran streaked homeward only to be thumbed back to second base on a ground rule. Cochran then went into his act, panting and ranting, aided with a whole lot of arm waving, to the delight of the vast crowd. When he finally came across with the lolly, he stepped on the plate, took off his cap and daintily waved a "thank you" to the crowd.

EASED UP

Pressure soon eased up and both sides reshuffled their positions. Finch took over mound duties for the winners in the fifth while Cochran stepped into the hot spot at the windy-alley. Tagging Pogliani's liner at short, laugh-getter Cochran side-stepped neatly while lazily stretching out a gloved hand to snag the ball en route.

With the wall of defence at the plate being considerably weakened by Cochran's absence, the blue-shirted side scraped in two more tallies, but these were quickly erased in their fielding half by the clutch-hitting hickory of coach Koziatek whose timely swat cleaned the bases for two more markers to make the final score read 8-3 in his side's favour.

The stars in the batting department had a rather bad day at the plate as top hitter Riley walked off hitless in his only time at bat (he was passed twice) while Finch had one hit in two trips to the plate. In the outfield, Colonel Jamison stole the limelight with a brilliant catch of Lasser's liner in the first frame with a running catch at right field while Dolson paced him with a beauty in the fourth. At the crack of the bat he spun around and raced into deep left field, stopping and turning at the precise moment to let the ball plummet into his mitt.

It is a pity that we could not put up a team against this touring squad for then local followers of this sport would have seen what first class baseball is like in a game rather than an exhibition.

In a series of exhibition games in Australia, this American "Olympic" squad won 13 out of the 14 played. In the Philippines they split two with the Philippine National Baseball Team, a squad that's tops in this line sport.

The visitors will be spending their Christmas holidays in Hong Kong and are due to leave on the morning of the 26th for their bases in Tokyo, Korea, Okinawa, etc. after disembarking.

Sports Diary

WEDNESDAY

Football
Summer League: South China v Kwong Wah (CB) 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Rugby
Hexagonal Tourney: Police v Club (BS) 3.30 p.m.; R.A.F. v Army South (Kai Tak) 3.30 p.m.; Army North v Navy (CB) 3.30 p.m.

Soccer
Div. 1: Eastern v R.A.F. (Club); South China v Police (CB); Club v St. Joseph's (5kp). All matches at 3.30 p.m.

Reserve Div.: South China v Police (CB); Club v St. Joseph's (5kp). Both matches at 2 p.m.

Div. 2: R.A.F. Sai Wan v Solicitors (Club) 2 p.m.

R.A.M.C. v Princess (HV) 2.15 p.m.; Telephone v Jardines (HV) 2.45 p.m.; B and S v Dockyard (HV) 3.45 p.m.

Div. 3: Kowloon Godown v R.I.L. (HV) 2.15 p.m.; Mercantile v Rediffusion (HV) 2.15 p.m.; Dodwell v C.M.B. (HV) 3.45 p.m.

H.K. Army Referees Association Meeting, Napsu Club, Chatham Road 10.15 a.m.

AT LAST.....

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TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

Tanker Fleet Revision

US COST OF LIVING RISES

Washington, Dec. 23. A drastic increase in food prices has been a prime factor in the big jump in the cost of living since 1939, government statistics showed today.

According to the official cost of living index maintained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, food prices are up nearly 2 1/2 times over 1939. The overall index reached a record high in October.

Clothing costs were slightly more than double their 1939 level. Rent, on the other hand, were up about 50 per cent. The figures are based on the buying habits of "moderate-income" city families.

Translated into purchasing power, the figures mean that the average city family's dollar is about 50 cents worth of what it would buy in 1939. It will buy only 41 cents worth of food and 49 cents in clothing.

Sharpest Rises

The sharpest rises in the cost of living and in food and clothing costs in particular took place during the World War II and the postwar years. In the 11 years from 1939 to 1950, the cost of living rose 73 per cent, food prices 115 per cent, clothing prices 87 per cent.

In the same period, the purchasing power of the consumer dollar dropped to 58 cents in terms of 1939 prices, the food dollar to 47 cents and the clothing dollar to 54 cents.

Rent rose only 5 1/2 per cent between 1939 and 1950, mainly because of World War II rent controls. They climbed 19 per cent being removed. They climbed another 20 per cent between 1950 and 1955.—United Press.

US Steel Industry Approaching Capacity

New York, Dec. 23. United States steel industry production next year should approach capacity, the chairman of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation, Admiral Ben Moreell, said in an annual statement.

Admiral Moreell estimated that the industry's capacity in 1957 at about 1,331 million tons of some three million tons higher than the capacity this year. The actual output this year will total around 115 million tons.

Admiral Moreell added it was not prudent to look ahead more than six months, but there was every indication that the industry would produce steel at an unprecedented rate next year and Jones and Laughlin should get its share of this business.

Admiral Moreell revealed that the company, the country's fourth largest steel producer, stepped up its cost reduction and expansion programme for three years 1955/56 to \$320 million. This represents an increase of \$90 million since last April, which is due partly to an extension of the programme and partly to a rise in costs.—China Mail Special.

The Bank Of England Statement

London, Dec. 23. The Bank of England statement for the week ended Dec. 19, reads as follows:

Notes in circulation	1,096,080,454
Public deposits	12,500,111
Private deposits	27,003,712
Government securities	234,091,020
Other securities	25,081,020
Reserves	30,222,122
Ratio	10.4

—United Press.

The Bank Of France Statement

Paris, Dec. 23. The Bank of France statement for the week ended Dec. 19, reads as follows:

Total gold holdings	101,204,323,420
Total other gold	14,644,133,317
State balance paid in gold	40,104,110,329
Advances to States	72,200,000,000
Total bills	1,710,350,048,000
Notes in circulation	2,005,285,287,000
Current accounts and deposits	170,000,000,000

—United Press.

NAMESAKES

Answers: 1. Plymouth; 2. Columbus; 3. Plymouth; 4. Santa Fe; 5. Santa Fe; 6. Santa Fe; 7. Santa Fe; 8. Santa Fe; 9. Santa Fe; 10. Santa Fe.

In America SUEZ CANAL CRISIS FORCES ISSUE

By JOHN MORKA

New York, Dec. 23.

The Suez crisis and West Europe's urgent need for oil is forcing the United States to take a new look at its tanker fleets.

While the special Middle East Emergency Committee (MEEC) maps plans to coordinate critical tanker movements to feed oil to Europe, the US Government and private oil companies are busy with long-range projects aimed at boosting their tonnage potential.

Developments

There were three developments last week:

- ★ The US Maritime Administration sanctioned shipping lines' plans to build 27 new tankers and two bulk carriers.
- ★ The Gulf Oil Company announced in Pittsburgh, that an 11-tanker new fleet will about double its original fleet's carrying capacity to almost six million barrels by 1961. Tankers aggregating 330,000 deadweight tons have been ordered, making the programme currently one of the biggest in the oil industry.
- ★ In Venezuela, Standard Oil Co. (NJ) said it will construct over the next five years 14 tankers of 35,000-45,000 tons capacity each. The tanker set-up has been prompted by the Suez crisis, officials said.

One of the biggest tanker-building programmes in the world is being conducted by Stavros S. Niarchos interests. A total of 30 ships are under construction on order or planned around the world, ranging in size up to 100,000 tons.

The total value of these 30 ships is in the neighbourhood of \$15 million. The industry's petroleum Council submitted a report to the Interior Department outlining plans whereby the world tanker fleet would be increased by 50,000,000 tons by the end of 1961. The present capacity is about 43,000,000 tons.

The report is now being considered by high Cabinet and government officials now studying plans to speed tanker construction.

The Council also pointed out that world tanker construction will have to be increased substantially.

Priorities

The Office of Defence Mobilisation was also expected to announce this week a long-awaited decision that it will give tanker construction priority over hard-to-get steel supplies. Another pending decision will deal with the question of granting the hard-pressed steel industry special tax write-offs in order to boost expansion and production of critical items.

The problem of tanker priorities is considered a difficult one for government authorities. Any concessions granted to the tanker or the steel industries might well prompt similar demands from other industries such as pipeline and railway cars.

Right now there is a big shortage of steel, notably of plates, and construction items. The shortage of heavy plate is running about 20 per cent. And some say this might soon run to about 50 per cent. Elsewhere on the oilfront last week, industry leaders talked more of a possible increase in crude oil prices. Higher exploitation and operating costs might spur this price increase, according to the president of the Continental Oil Company. It has been expecting some kind of a price movement for some weeks now in view of the world shortage of crude and the continued tie-up in the Suez Canal.

Potential Threat

The failure of the State of Texas last week to set up production allowances for January was viewed by the Journal of Commerce as a potential threat to the US oil lift to Europe. The trade daily notes that every day of delay on the part of Texas will mean a further drop in the January output levels will

JAPANESE FIRMS LICENSED

Manila, Dec. 23.

Japanese firms may now be licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission to do business in the Philippines, it was announced last Friday.

In a ruling handed down Friday Justice Pedro Tasson said the Corporation Law does not prohibit enemy or former enemy corporations from doing business in the PI.

"I am not aware of any municipal statute or executive order at present in force which does so," Mr Tasson said.

"Accordingly," he added, "in view of the ratification and giving into effect of the raty of peace with Japan and there being no municipal law which prohibits it I believe there is no legal objection to the licensing of corporations organised under Japanese laws."

Mr Tasson's opinion was interpreted by the Securities and Exchange Commission to mean complete restoration of trade relations that existed between Japan and the PI before the war.—United Press.

Irritable

"Many oil company production officials countered West Texas oilmen's claims that shippers of US crude to Europe ought to withdraw more from storage to free the allowables are lifted."

"They said the stocks must be made up sooner or later. If output is not lifted pipeline capacity will go down and available port supplies will be reduced."

A higher price for crude could put independent refiners in a price squeeze, and the oil-for-Europe programme has been roundly criticised on this account. American refiners feel they might not be able to recover any price increase in crude through the sales of refined products, mainly petrol, stocks of which are mounting and show no signs of dwindling.

With Europe suffering from a shortage of petrol and with prices higher there, American refiners are openly puzzled as to why they cannot sell off some of their surplus stocks abroad. So far petrol exports to Europe have been negligible.

As of December 5, only about 40,000 barrels a day have been moving to Europe from the Gulf Coast, compared to about 350,000 barrels of crude and over 200,000 barrels of distillate from the same source each day.

Reports here emphasise the growing irritability of American oilmen with the British increase in petrol tariff from 55 to 49 cents a gallon. France has not changed its import duty. Some exceptions given by the British Government for its tariff increase.

As an aftermath of the Suez closedown and the European unrest in Hungary and Poland, some observers are now looking for a step-up in the US farm export programme. The Wall Street Journal, for example, said that Europe will be spending its dollars more and more for oil and other essentials, thus draining away funds normally spent for food and other commodities.

Will Incl. as

The Financial Daily anticipates that American officials may therefore expand their export programme and include in the list of farm commodities for US sale of farm commodities are heightened by a number of other factors working in favour of US exporters. For one thing, American shippers would have the advantage of lower transatlantic costs compared to other exporters who must defend against Africa now that the Suez is closed.

So far, July-October shipments of US farm products are 30 per cent above the year-ago pace. Predictions are that this will increase in the next three months. The Wall Street Journal says that the US farm export programme will be stepped up to a level that will help to meet the needs of the European countries.

Pakistan's Quarterly Deficit

Karachi, Dec. 23.

Pakistan's balance of payments for the quarter ending July/September, 1956, showed a deficit of Rs. 150,180,000, according to the Ministry of Finance statement issued here. It said the deficit was mainly due to a seasonal decline in the volume of exports and a substantial increase in imports.

Exports of raw jute worth Rs. 120,700,000, and jute manufactures worth Rs. 20,210,000 accounted for about half the total of foreign exchange earnings from exports.

Value of cotton manufactures exports showed an improvement. This amounted to Rs. 10,780,000 compared with Rs. 10,430,000 for the period April/June, 1956.

At the end of this period Pakistan had a surplus of Rs. 870,000 with Continental OPEC countries. There was a surplus with Japan of Rs. 10,780,000. In the dollar area there was a deficit of Rs. 30,070,000 due mainly to reduced imports. The deficit with the United Kingdom was Rs. 140,630,000.

Gold, dollar and sterling reserves fell by Rs. 120,340,000, but nevertheless the end of the first three quarters of this year showed a net increase in reserves of Rs. 110,480,000 over the balance at the end of last year.—China Mail Special.

CHINA GLASS SALES

Tokyo, Dec. 23. China is making serious inroads into Japanese sheet glass sales to Burma. Industry sources said today.

Japan's sheet glass exports to Burma last year totalled about 30,000 cases, sources said, but 40 for this year only. Fifty cases have been shipped.—United Press.

New Plant Helps End Fog Menace

Helping to reduce "smog" is not the only way in which Britain's new smokeless fuel plant at Wingerworth, near Chesterfield (Derbyshire), will make its benefits felt. From this month it will supply 2,100,000,000 units of heat, which will take four years to construct and is the first of its type in the world—comes daily 14,000,000 cubic feet of gas for the East Midlands and 1,400 tons of coke for domestic consumption.

The coal at Wingerworth is treated in such a way that the resultant solid residue, used in the correct appliances, gives a heating efficiency of nearly 80 per cent. Coal in home grates is estimated to give between seven and 14 per cent. The coke being produced meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the gases usually discharged when coal is burnt are turned at the plant into tar, benzole and important chemicals for industry. The coal carbonised in the ovens provides all the power required to operate the plant, which is thus self-sufficient.

Mr Aubrey Jones, Minister of Fuel and Power, said at the opening that the Clean Air Act was not only aimed at doing away with "smog" but would help to secure economy and efficiency in the use of fuel. Even with a rising output of coal in general, large coal used for the old fashioned open fire which caused smoky air, was becoming scarcer. This made it important to use modern open fires burning smaller coal and smokeless fuel.

WEEKLY COTTON REVIEW

New York, Dec. 23.

The local cotton goods market last week completed the third month of extremely quiet dealings.

Market experts went home for the Christmas holidays resigned to the idea that the fourth quarter lull may extend through mid-January, or until completion of the inventory-taking activities.

Hard fibres featured a continuing trend in burly while hemp and alpaca prices strengthened.

In synthetic fibres, prices were firm as nylon, dacron, polyester fibre and acetate filament yarn prices were increased.—United Press.

New York, Dec. 23. Raw cotton exports by destination as reported in sales by the New York Cotton Exchange for the 1955-57 season to Dec. 18 were as follows:

Britain	305,101
Continental	1,197,844
Orient	430,903
Canada	2,320,150
Total for season*	609,529
Same period last year*	609,529

*excluding India.—United Press.

London Market Fluctuates

London, Dec. 23.

For sheer eccentricity this past week has not been surpassed in 1956. The textbooks say that the function of the market is to give us a picture of the economic faith some allowance for current politics, but this has proved difficult to do.

The Government put an extra tax on petrol to discourage use of motor cars but it then turned around and dropped three shillings on the hire-purchase of motor cars. The week started with a shortage of tankers to carry fuel oil and petrol and ended with a shortage of fuel oil and petrol for the tankers to carry.

Improved Little

Finally came the astonishing behaviour of Lancashire Cotton which was formed many years ago by the Bank of England amalgamating a lot of cotton companies to help reduce Lancashire's chronic disorder to something like order—jumped the dividend up from the traditional 12 1/2 per cent to 17 1/2. This at a time when earnings had improved only a little.

Industrials—except for Lancashire Cotton with its jump of 50 per cent—advanced rather conservatively. But in general the well-known industrials seldom rose—or fell—more than a shilling. Turnover was small. Old were disorderly from start to finish. There was a fair 7 1/2 per cent.—United Press.

Prosperous Future

Old Consols and "Dallons" gained 15s and War Loan 11s 3d. Demand for Bethlehem Steel on its prosperous future in over-prosperous USA and this lifted the price some 6 points to 263 points—peak this year is 270—but other stocks with notably good followings lost ground. However, in general the demand for American stocks increased last week, lifting the premium from 6 per cent to 7 1/2 per cent.—United Press.

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WYNDHAM STREET

Year-End Rally On Wall Street

New York, Dec. 23.

Stocks set off on a vigorous year-end rally in the final session of the past week after four days of irregularity.

The net result for the week was a rise of 2.30 points in the industrial average which closed at 494.38, a decline of 1.54 to 492.84 in the rail, and a rise of utilities of 07.06.

Last week the market ran into trouble each time the industrials got close to the 500 mark.

Wall Street experts believed the time was near for an attempted break-through of the 500 figure with a vigorous year-end rally.

The Friday rally came when tax selling lightened and year-end reinvestment was stepped up. It was helped along by short covering in advance of the four-day market holiday.

Trading Light

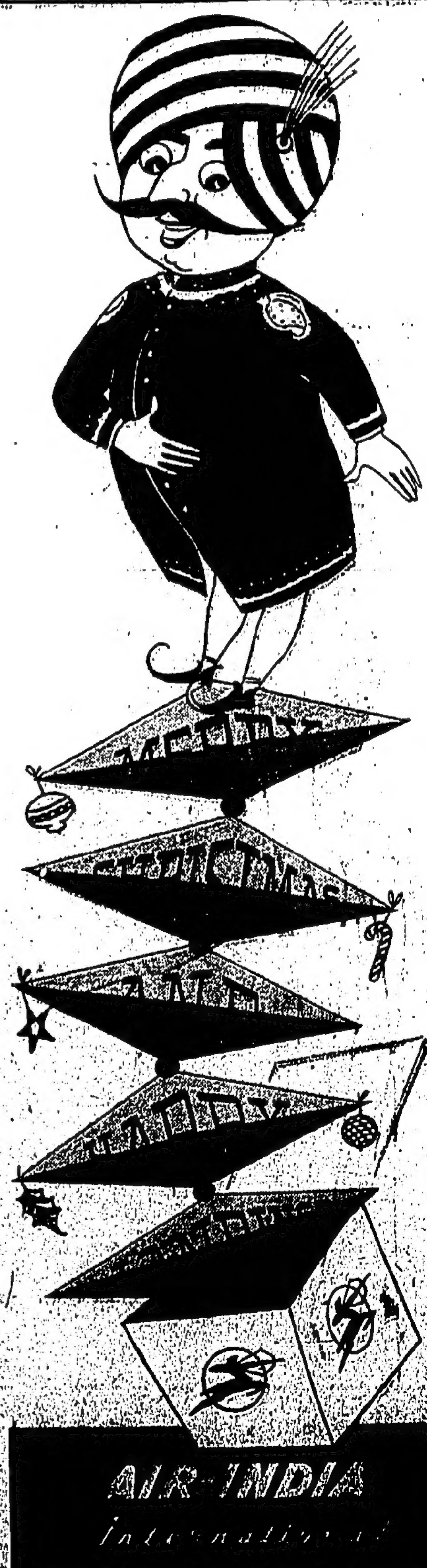
Trading was light when prices were in a decline and it picked up on the late recovery but not enough to improve over the previous week. Sales averaged 2,252,915 shares daily against 2,362,209 daily in the preceding week.

Business news continued favourable with most lines

Steels Higher

There were 1,417 issues traded last week, exactly the same as in the previous week and only less than the total for a year ago. Of the 1,417 this past week, 507 advanced, 745 declined and 165 were unchanged. A total of 68 stocks made new highs while 207 made new lows.

Steel issues were higher in most instances, featured by the volatile Lilacens which noted 10 points. Autos declined. Oil were mixed and to were rally. Gains were noted in sugar, chemicals, cements and alcohols. Many special issues were down.—United Press.



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